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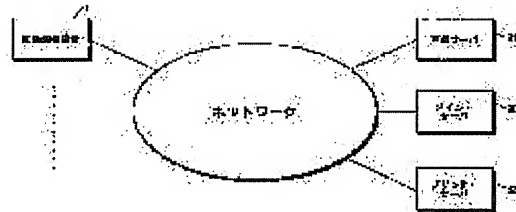
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(54) SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EDITORIAL PICTURE PRINTING

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To relatively easily provide an editorial picture of high quality without having a user go to a laboratory.

SOLUTION: A picture editing device 1, a main server 30, a picture server 31 and a printer server 32 are communicatively connected to one another by way of a network. A user uses the picture editing device 1 and generates an editorial picture from plural pictures. Editorial information for reproducing the generated editorial picture is transmitted from the picture editing device 1 to the main server 30. In the main server 30, picture data to be used for generating the editorial picture stored in the



main server 30 or the picture server 31 from received editorial information are retrieved and editorial picture data are generated. The generated editorial picture data are transmitted to a printer server 32 and the editorial picture of high quality is printed. A printed matter of the editorial picture is mailed to the user of the picture editing device 1.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] In an image communication system with which a picture server, an image edit device, and a printer server can communicate mutually, In [in a described image editing device, generate an edited image of one piece using image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces, transmit information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image to a described image server, and] a described image server, In [generate edited image data which expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image transmitted from a described image editing device, transmit the generated above-mentioned edited image data to the above-mentioned printer server, and] the above-mentioned printer server, An edited image printing method which prints the above-mentioned edited image using the above-mentioned edited image data

transmitted from a described image server.

[Claim 2] To a described image server, a picture of two or more pieces. Image data to express. Make it memorize, transmit image data which expresses a picture of at least 2 pieces among described images of two or more pieces from a described image server to a described image editing device based on transmission commands from a described image editing device, and a described image editing device a picture of at least 2 pieces transmitted from a described image server. Generate an edited image of the one above-mentioned piece using image data to express, and a described image editing device, In [as information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image, transmit image identification information for specifying described image data, and information about edit of the above-mentioned edited image to a described image server, and] a described image server, Edited image data which searches image data corresponding to a picture of the at least 2 above-mentioned pieces memorized by described image server based on described image identification information, and expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on searched image data and information about edit of the above-mentioned edited image. The edited image printing method according to claim 1 to generate.

[Claim 3] The 1st image data used for edit of a picture at a described image server. Make it memorize and to a described image editing device. The 2nd image data used for edit of a picture. The 2nd image data of the above that makes memorize and is memorized by the 1st image data of the above that transmitted the 1st image data of the above to a described image editing device from a described image server, and was transmitted from a described image server based on transmission commands from a described image editing device, and described image editing device. Use, generate an edited image of the one above-mentioned piece in a described image editing device, and from a described image editing device as information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image to a described image server, In [transmit information about edit of the above-mentioned edited image, image identification information for specifying the 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image, and] a described image server, Search the 1st image data of the above memorized by described image server based on described image identification information, and based on the 1st searched image data of the above, the 2nd image data of the above transmitted from a described image editing device, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image the above-mentioned edited image. The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which generates edited image data to express.

[Claim 4]To a described image server, a picture of two or more pieces. The 1st image data to express. Make it memorize, and transmit the 1st image data that expresses a picture of one specific piece at least among described images of two or more pieces from a described image server to a described image editing device, and the 2nd image data used for a described image editing device at edit of a picture is made to memorize, In a described image editing device using the 2nd image data of the above memorized by the 1st specific image data of the above transmitted from a described image server, and described image editing device, As information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image which generates an edited image of the one above-mentioned piece, and is transmitted to a described image server from a described image editing device, In [transmit information about edit of the above-mentioned edited image, and image identification information for specifying the 1st image data and 2nd image data of the above of the above-mentioned specification to a described image server from a described image editing device, and] a described image server, The 1st image data and 2nd image data of the above of the above-mentioned specification are searched out of image data memorized by described image server based on described image identification information, Based on the 1st specific image data of the above and the 2nd image data of the above which were searched, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image, edited image data showing the above-mentioned edited image *****. **, the edited image printing method according to claim 1.

[Claim 5]In [image data which expresses a picture of two or more pieces corresponding to mutual to each of a described image server and a described image editing device is memorized, and] a described image editing device, It is what generates an edited image of one piece using a picture of at least 2 pieces in two or more pictures expressed by image data memorized by described image editing device. As information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image which exists and is transmitted to a described image server from a described image editing device, In [transmit image identification information for specifying information about edit of the above-mentioned edited image, and a picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image to a described image server from a described image editing device, and] a described image server, Out of image data memorized by described image server based on described image identification information. Edited image data which expresses the above-mentioned edited image from image data which searches image data showing a picture corresponding to a picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image, and expresses a picture of at least 2 searched pieces, and information about generation of the above-mentioned

edited image. The edited image printing method according to claim 1 to generate.

[Claim 6]From a described image server for generation of the above-mentioned edited image to a described image editing device. In [transmit image data for edited image generation, and the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation is the reduced image data showing a reduction image, and / using image data for printing of high resolution] a described image server from the above-mentioned reduced image data. The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which is what generates the above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 7]In [transmit an authorization code to a described image server from a described image editing device, and] a described image server, When it judges whether transmission of image data for edited image generation is permitted based on the transmitted above-mentioned authorization code and transmission of the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation is permitted, The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which transmits the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation to a described image editing device from a described image server.

[Claim 8]On an image communication system containing two or more sets of described image servers, and in the 1st picture server, When image data is not searched by the above-mentioned retrieval processing performed based on described image identification information, The edited image printing method according to claim 3, 4, or 5 which performs the above-mentioned retrieval processing in the 2nd picture server, and generates the above-mentioned edited image data using image data searched in the 2nd picture server.

[Claim 9]In [make image data which expresses two or more pictures to a described image server memorize, and] a described image server. When image data for edited image generation which generates the above-mentioned edited image based on information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image is searched, it judges whether image data for edited image generation searched [above-mentioned] is image data of an accounting object and it is judged with it being the image data of an accounting object. The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which adds information about fee collection to the above-mentioned edited image data, and memorizes information about the above-mentioned fee collection to a described image server and the above-mentioned printer server.

[Claim 10]The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which transmits information about a printing stop of the above-mentioned edited image to either [at least] a described image editing device or a described image server when printing of the

above-mentioned edited image in the above-mentioned printer server is stopped.

[Claim 11]The edited image printing method according to claim 9 which deletes information about the above-mentioned fee collection memorized by a described image server and the above-mentioned printer server when printing of the above-mentioned edited image in the above-mentioned printer server is stopped.

[Claim 12]The edited image printing method according to claim 9 which memorizes information about receipt of the above-mentioned fee collection to a described image server when a price based on information about the above-mentioned fee collection is received.

[Claim 13]The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which transmits information about the receipt to the above-mentioned printer server from a described image server when a usage fee of a described image server is received.

[Claim 14]The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which transmits information about the receipt to a described image server from the above-mentioned printer server when a usage fee of the above-mentioned printer server is received.

[Claim 15]The edited image printing method according to claim 13 or 14 which enciphers information about the above-mentioned receipt and transmits.

[Claim 16]The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which image data is memorized by portability type storage, and reads image data from the above-mentioned portability type storage in a described image editing device, and generates an edited image of the one above-mentioned piece using read image data.

[Claim 17]The edited image printing method according to claim 16 whose image data memorized by the above-mentioned portability type storage is the reduced image data showing a reduction image.

[Claim 18]The edited image printing method according to claim 16 with which image data except image data of an accounting object is memorized by the above-mentioned portability type storage.

[Claim 19]The edited image printing method according to claim 1 with common described image server and above-mentioned printer server.

[Claim 20]In [transmit information about fee collection corresponding to image data for edited image generation and the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation which generate the above-mentioned edited image data to a described image server from a described image editing device, and] a described image server, When information about fee collection corresponding to the above-mentioned image data for image generation for edit and the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation is memorized and the above-mentioned edited image data is generated using

the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation, The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which relates information about corresponding fee collection with the above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 21]The edited image printing method according to claim 20 which changes information about fee collection corresponding to the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation, and relates information about changed fee collection with the above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 22]The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which is template picture data showing the background of a picture that image data which expresses a picture of one piece among pictures of the at least 2 above-mentioned pieces constitutes the above-mentioned edited image.

[Claim 23]Using information about fee collection corresponding to the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation as a use count of the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation is calculated and the above-mentioned use count increases in a described image server. The edited image printing method according to claim 20 set up so that a usage fee of the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation defined may become cheap.

[Claim 24]The edited image printing method according to claim 20 which stops setting beforehand those who can use the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation for free, answering existence of data showing those who can use it for free [above-mentioned], and relating information about corresponding fee collection with the above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 25]When an authentication server is provided, it judges whether a described image editing device, a described image server, and the above-mentioned printer server are just by the above-mentioned authentication server and it is judged with it being just, The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which validates communication between a described image editing device, a described image server, and the above-mentioned printer server.

[Claim 26]The edited image printing method according to claim 1 with same described image editing device and above-mentioned printer server.

[Claim 27]The edited image printing method according to claim 26 with which printing of an edited image by the above-mentioned printer server is permitted to restricted frequency expressed by restriction data which restricts printing frequency of an edited image expressed by the above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 28]The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which transmits data about a generation situation of edited image data in a described image server to a

described image editing device from a described image server.

[Claim 29]A product produced by the edited image printing method according to claim 1.

[Claim 30]In an image communication system with which an image edit device and a printer server can communicate mutually, In [make image data which expresses a picture of two or more pieces with a described image editing device memorize, and] a described image editing device, A picture of at least 2 pieces in described image data memorized. An edited image printing method which transmits edited image data which generates an edited image of one piece using image data to express, and expresses the generated above-mentioned edited image to the above-mentioned printer server, and prints the above-mentioned edited image in the above-mentioned printer server using the transmitted above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 31]The edited image printing method according to claim 30 which is what memorizes described image data to a described image editing device by reading image data which described image data showing two or more pictures of a piece is memorized by portability type storage, and is memorized by this portability type storage.

[Claim 32]The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which transmits edited image data generated in a described image server to a described image editing device.

[Claim 33]The edited image printing method according to claim 1 which changes into a format of edited image data, and a different format edited image data generated in a described image server.

[Claim 34]In an image communication system with which a picture server, an image edit device, and a printer server can communicate mutually, In an image editing means which generates an edited image of one piece using image data to which a described image editing device expresses a picture of at least 2 pieces, and a described image editing means. Have an edited image creation information transmitting means which transmits information about generation of the generated above-mentioned edited image to a described image server, and a described image server based on information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image transmitted from a described image editing device the above-mentioned edited image. By edited image data creating means which generates edited image data to express, and the above-mentioned edited image data creating means. An edited image printing system which was provided with an edited image data transmitting means which transmits the generated above-mentioned edited image data to the above-mentioned printer server and with which the above-mentioned printer server is provided with a printing means which prints the above-mentioned edited image using the above-mentioned edited image data

transmitted from a described image server.

[Claim 35]A described image server a picture of two or more pieces. Image data to express. It has memorized, And based on transmission commands from a described image editing device, Among described images of a piece, two or more a picture of at least 2 pieces. Transmit image data to express to a described image editing device, and a described image editing means of a described image editing device generates an edited image of the one above-mentioned piece using image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces transmitted from a described image data sending means of a described image server, and it the above-mentioned edited image creation information transmitting means, By a described image editing means. Information about edit of an edited picture, Described image data transmitted from a described image server. transmit image identification information for specifying to a described image server from a described image editing device, and an edited image data creating means of a described image server is based on described image identification information transmitted from a described image generated data transmitting means -- the above -- image data corresponding to a described image of two pieces, even if small. The edited image printing system according to claim 34 which generates edited image data which searches and expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on searched image data and information about edit of the above-mentioned edited image.

[Claim 36]A described image server the 1st image data used for edit of a picture. Based on transmission commands from a described image editing device, from a described image server, have memorized, and a described image editing device has memorized the 2nd image data used for edit of a picture, transmits to a described image editing device, and the 1st image data of the above a described image editing means of a described image editing device, Using the 2nd image data of the above memorized by the 1st image data of the above transmitted from a described image server, and described image editing device, generate an edited image of the one above-mentioned piece, and the above-mentioned edited image creation information transmitting means information about generation and the 1st image data of the above of the above-mentioned edited image. In image identification information and a described image editing means for specifying. Transmit the 2nd image data of the above used for generation of an edited image to a described image server, and the above-mentioned edited image data creating means of a described image server the 1st image data of the above memorized by described image server based on described image identification information. Edited image printing SHISUTE according to claim 34 which generates edited image data which searches and expresses the above-mentioned edited image

based on the 1st searched image data of the above, the 2nd image data of the above transmitted from a described image editing device, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image. MU.

[Claim 37] A described image server memorizes the 1st image data showing a picture of two or more pieces, and a described image editing device, A picture. The 2nd image data to express. It has memorized, Among described images of a piece, two or more at least a picture of one specific piece. Transmit the 1st image data to express to a described image editing device from a described image server, and a described image editing means of a described image editing device the 2nd image data of the above memorized by the 1st specific image data of the above transmitted from a described image server, and described image editing device. Information use, generate an edited image of the one above-mentioned piece, and concerning [the above-mentioned edited image creation information transmitting means] generation of the above-mentioned edited image, The 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above. Transmit image identification information for specifying to a described image server, and the above-mentioned edited image data creating means of a described image server the 1st image data and 2nd image data of the above of the above-mentioned specification out of image data memorized by described image server based on described image identification information. The edited image printing system according to claim 34 which generates edited image data which searches and expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on the 1st image data of the above and the 2nd image data of the above which were searched, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image.

[Claim 38] Image data which expresses a picture of two or more pieces corresponding to mutual to each of a described image server and a described image editing device is memorized, and a described image editing means of a described image editing device by image data memorized by described image editing device. Information generate an edited image of one piece using a picture of at least 2 pieces in two or more pictures expressed, and concerning [the above-mentioned edited image creation information transmitting means] generation of the above-mentioned edited image, A picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image. Image identification information for specifying is transmitted to a described image server, The above-mentioned edited image data creating means of a described image server image data showing a picture corresponding to a picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image out of image data memorized by described image server based on described image identification information. The edited image printing

system according to claim 34 which generates edited image data which expresses the above-mentioned edited image from image data which searches and expresses a picture of at least 2 searched pieces, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image.

[Claim 39]From a described image server for generation of the above-mentioned edited image to a described image editing device. Image data for edited image generation is transmitted, the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation is the reduced image data showing a reduction image, and the above-mentioned edited-image-data creating means is what generates the above-mentioned edited image data using image data for printing of high resolution rather than the above-mentioned reduced image data. A certain edited image printing system according to claim 34.

[Claim 40]An authorization code. An authorization code transmitting means which transmits to a described image server. Have further a judging means which judges whether a preparation and a described image server permit transmission of image data for edited image generation to a described image editing device based on the above-mentioned authorization code transmitted from the above-mentioned authorization code transmitting means, and by the above-mentioned judging means.

The edited image printing system according to claim 34 which transmits the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation to a described image editing device from a described image server when it judges with transmission of the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation having been permitted.

[Claim 41]On an image communication system containing two or more sets of described image servers, and in the 1st picture server a described image server, When image data is not searched by the above-mentioned retrieval processing performed based on described image identification information, The edited image printing system according to claim 34 which performed the above-mentioned retrieval processing in the 2nd picture server, and is further provided with a control means which controls the above-mentioned edited image data creating means to generate the above-mentioned edited image data using image data searched in the 2nd picture server of the above.

[Claim 42]By a search means and the above-mentioned search means of searching image data for edited image generation which generates the above-mentioned edited image data from image data which a described image server has memorized image data showing two or more pictures, and has memorized based on information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image. By a fee collection judging means and the above-mentioned fee collection judging means which judge whether searched image data is image data of an accounting object. When judged with it being the image data of

an accounting object. The edited image printing system according to claim 34 which memorized an accounting information addition means which adds information about fee collection to the above-mentioned edited image data, and information about the above-mentioned fee collection, and equips the above-mentioned printer server with an accounting information storage control means which makes information about the above-mentioned fee collection memorize further.

[Claim 43]When printing of the above-mentioned edited image [in / in the above-mentioned printer server / the above-mentioned printer server] is stopped, The edited image printing system according to claim 34 further provided with a printing stop information transmission means which transmits information about a printing stop of the above-mentioned edited image to either [at least] a described image editing device or a described image server.

[Claim 44]The edited image printing system according to claim 42 further provided with an accounting information deleting means which deletes information about the above-mentioned fee collection memorized by a described image server and the above-mentioned printer server when printing of the above-mentioned edited image in the above-mentioned printer server is stopped.

[Claim 45]The edited image printing system according to claim 42 further provided with an accounting information addition means which adds information about receipt of the above-mentioned fee collection currently recorded on a described image server when a price based on information about the above-mentioned fee collection is received.

[Claim 46]The edited image printing system according to claim 34 further provided with the 1st usage fee received information transmitting means that transmits information about the receipt to the above-mentioned printer server from a described image server when a usage fee of a described image server was received.

[Claim 47]The edited image printing system according to claim 34 further provided with the 2nd usage fee received information transmitting means that transmits information about the receipt to a described image server from the above-mentioned printer server when a usage fee of the above-mentioned printer server was received.

[Claim 48]The edited image printing system according to claim 46 or 47 with which information about the above-mentioned receipt is enciphered.

[Claim 49]It is that which is further equipped with a reading means to which a described image editing device reads image data from a portability type storage with which image data is memorized and in which the above-mentioned edited image creating means generates an edited image of one piece using image data read from the above-mentioned reading means. A certain edited image printing system according to

claim 34.

[Claim 50]The edited image printing system according to claim 49 whose described image data memorized by the above-mentioned portability type storage is the reduced image data showing a reduction image.

[Claim 51]The edited image printing system according to claim 49 which is that image data except image data of an accounting object is remembered to be by the above-mentioned portability type storage.

[Claim 52]The edited image printing system according to claim 34 with common described image server and above-mentioned printer server.

[Claim 53]A described image editing device is further provided with an accounting information transmitting means which transmits information about fee collection corresponding to image data for edited image generation and the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation which generate the above-mentioned edited image data to a described image server, and a described image server by the above-mentioned accounting information transmitting means. By having generated the above-mentioned edited image data using an accounting information memory measure and the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation which memorize information about fee collection corresponding to the above-mentioned image data for image generation for edit and the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation which were transmitted. The edited image printing system according to claim 34 further provided with a correlation means which relates with the above-mentioned edited image data information about corresponding fee collection memorized by the above-mentioned accounting information memory measure.

[Claim 54]The edited image printing system according to claim 53 which is what is further provided with an accounting information alteration means by which a described image server changes information about fee collection corresponding to the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation, and relates with the above-mentioned edited image data information about fee collection by which the above-mentioned correlation means was changed.

[Claim 55]The edited image printing system according to claim 34 which is template picture data showing the background of a picture that image data which expresses a picture of one piece among described images of at least 2 pieces constitutes the above-mentioned edited image.

[Claim 56]Using information about fee collection corresponding to the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation as a described image server is further provided with a counting means which calculates a use count of the above-mentioned image data

for edited image generation and the above-mentioned use count increases. The edited image printing system according to claim 53 set up so that a usage fee of the above-mentioned data for edited image generation defined may become cheap.

[Claim 57]Those who can use the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation for free are set beforehand, and the above-mentioned correlation means answers existence of data showing those who can use it for free [above-mentioned], The edited image printing system according to claim 53 which is what stops relating information about corresponding fee collection with the above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 58]When judged with it being just by an authentication server provided with a just authority use means to judge whether a described image editing device, a described image server, and the above-mentioned printer server are just, and the above-mentioned authentication server, The edited image printing system according to claim 34 whose communication between a described image editing device, a described image server, and the above-mentioned printer server is attained.

[Claim 59]The edited image printing system according to claim 34 with same described image editing device and above-mentioned printer server.

[Claim 60]The edited image printing system according to claim 58 which is what printing of the above-mentioned edited image is permitted to restricted frequency expressed by restriction data in which the above-mentioned printer server restricts printing frequency of an edited image expressed by the above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 61]The edited image printing system according to claim 34 which transmits data about a generation situation of edited image data in a described image server to a described image editing device from a described image server.

[Claim 62]A product produced by the edited image printing system according to claim 34.

[Claim 63]In an image communication system with which an image edit device provided with an image data storing means image data showing two or more pictures of a piece is remembered to be, and a printer server can communicate mutually, A described image editing device by image editing means which generates an edited image of one piece using image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces out of described image data memorized by described image data storage means, and a described image editing means. An edited image printing system which was provided with an edited image data transmitting means which transmits edited image data showing the generated above-mentioned edited image to the above-mentioned printer server and with which the above-mentioned printer server is provided with a printing means which prints the

above-mentioned edited image using the transmitted above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 64]The edited image printing system according to claim 63 further provided with an image data reading means which reads image data memorized by portability type storage, and a storage control means which makes a described image data storage means memorize described image data read by described image data reading means.

[Claim 65]The edited image printing system according to claim 34 further provided with an edited image data transmitting means which transmits edited image data generated in a described image server to a described image editing device.

[Claim 66]The edited image printing system according to claim 34 further provided with an image data transformation means which changes into a format of edited image data, and a different format edited image data generated in a described image server.

[Claim 67]An image edit device and a picture of two or more pieces. Based on transmission commands from an image data storing means and a described image editing device image data to express is remembered to be, an image data transmitting means which transmits image data which expresses a picture of at least 2 pieces among described images of two or more pieces to a described image editing device. In a system which can communicate to mutual [which comprises a picture server which it had, and a printer server]. By image editing means which generates an edited image of one piece using image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces which is a described image editing device used and was transmitted from a described image data sending means of a described image server, and a described image editing means. An image edit device provided with an image-generation-data transmitting means which transmits information about edited edit, and image identification data for specifying described image data transmitted from a described image server to a described image server.

[Claim 68]Information about edit edited by image editing means which generates an edited image of one piece using image data which receives image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces, and expresses a picture of these two pieces, and a described image editing means, An image edit device provided with an image-generation-data transmitting means which transmits image identification data for specifying received described image data to a picture server.

[Claim 69]Information about edit which received image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces, generated an edited image of one piece using image data showing a picture of these two pieces, and was edited, A recording medium which stored a program for controlling a computer of an image edit device to transmit image identification data for specifying received described image data to a described image server and in which

computer reading is possible.

[Claim 70]Comprise a picture server, an image edit device, and a printer server, these picture servers, image edit devices, and printer servers can communicate mutually, and a described image server the 1st image data storing means the 1st image data used for edit of a picture is remembered to be. It is what transmits the 1st image data of the above to a described image editing device based on a preparation and transmission commands from a described image editing device. In such an image communication system with which it is and a described image editing device was provided with the 2nd image data storing means the 2nd image data used for edit of a picture is remembered to be. An image editing means which generates an edited image of one piece using the 2nd image data of the above memorized by the 1st image data of the above that is an image edit device used and was transmitted from a described image server, and described image editing device, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image, An image edit device provided with an image-generation-data transmitting means which transmits image identification information for specifying the 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above used for generation of an edited image in a described image editing means to a described image server.

[Claim 71]An image editing means which generates an edited image of one piece using the 1st image data transmitted from a picture server, and the 2nd image data memorized by image edit device, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image, An image edit device provided with an image-generation-data transmitting means which transmits image identification information for specifying the 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above used for generation of an edited image in a described image editing means to a described image server.

[Claim 72]Information receive the 1st image data, generate an edited image of one piece using the 1st image data of the above that received, and the 2nd image data memorized by image edit device, and concerning generation of the above-mentioned edited image, In image identification information and a described image editing means for specifying the 1st image data of the above. A recording medium which stored a program for controlling a computer of a described image editing device to transmit the 2nd image data of the above used for generation of an edited image to a picture server from a described image editing device and in which computer reading is possible.

[Claim 73]The 1st image data storing means the 1st image data to which it comprises a picture server, an image edit device, and a printer server, these picture servers, image

edit devices, and printer servers can communicate mutually, and a described image server expresses a picture of two or more pieces is remembered to be. It is what transmits the 1st image data that expresses a picture of one piece specific at least of the described images of the above-mentioned two or more pieces with a described image editing device based on a preparation and transmission commands from a described image editing device. In such an image communication system with which it is and a described image editing device was provided with the 2nd image data storing means the 2nd image data used for edit of a picture is remembered to be. An image editing means which generates an edited image of one piece using the 2nd image data of the above memorized by the 1st image data of the above that is an image edit device used and was transmitted from a described image server, and the 2nd image data storing means of the above, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image, An image edit device provided with an image-generation-data transmitting means which transmits image identification information for specifying the 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above to a described image server from a described image editing device.

[Claim 74]By image data reception means which receives the 1st image data, image data storing means the 2nd image data is remembered to be, and a described image data receiving means. An image editing means which generates an edited image of one piece using the 2nd image data of the above memorized by the 1st image data of the above that received, and described image data storage means, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image, An image edit device provided with an image-generation-data transmitting means which transmits image identification information for specifying the 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above to a described image server.

[Claim 75]Information generate an edited image of one piece using the 2nd image data that receives the 1st image data and is remembered to be the 1st image data of the above that received, and concerning generation of the above-mentioned edited image, A recording medium which stored a program for controlling a computer of an image edit device to transmit image identification information for specifying the 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above to a described image server and in which computer reading is possible.

[Claim 76]In an image communication system which can communicate to mutual [which comprises an image edit device and a printer server]. Are an image edit device used and a picture of two or more pieces. By image editing means which generates an edited image of one piece using image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces out of

described image data memorized by an image data storing means image data to express is remembered to be, and described image data storage means, and a described image editing means. An image edit device provided with an edited image data transmitting means which transmits edited image data showing the generated above-mentioned edited image to the above-mentioned printer server.

[Claim 77]By image editing means which generates an edited image of one piece using image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces out of described image data memorized by an image data storing means image data showing two or more pictures of a piece is remembered to be, and described image data storage means, and a described image editing means. An image edit device provided with an edited image data transmitting means which transmits edited image data showing the generated above-mentioned edited image to a printer server.

[Claim 78]Two or more a picture of a piece. Generate an edited image of one piece using image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces out of an image data storing means image data to express is remembered to be, and so that edited image data showing the generated above-mentioned edited image may be transmitted to the above-mentioned printer server a computer of an image edit device. A recording medium which stored a program for controlling and in which computer reading is possible.

[Claim 79]Two or more a picture of a piece. In an image communication system with which an image edit device provided with the 2nd image data storing means image data showing a picture of a picture server provided with the 1st image data storing means image data to express is remembered to be, and two or more pieces is remembered to be, and a printer server can communicate mutually. Are an image edit device used and by image data memorized by the 1st image data storing means of the above. An image editing means which generates an edited image of one piece using a picture of at least 2 pieces out of a picture expressed, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image, An image edit device provided with an image-generation-data transmitting means which transmits image identification information for specifying a picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image to a described image server.

[Claim 80]By image data memorized by an image data storing means image data showing two or more pictures of a piece is remembered to be, and described image data storage means. An image editing means which generates an edited image of one piece using a picture of at least 2 pieces out of a picture expressed, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image, An image edit device provided with an image-generation-data transmitting means which transmits image identification

information for specifying a picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image to a picture server.

[Claim 81]By image data memorized by image data storing means image data showing two or more pictures of a piece is remembered to be. Information generate an edited image of one piece using a picture of at least 2 pieces out of a picture expressed, and concerning generation of the above-mentioned edited image, A recording medium which stored a program for controlling a computer of an image edit device to transmit image identification information for specifying a picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image to a described image server and in which computer reading is possible.

[Claim 82]An image edit device and a picture of two or more pieces. Based on transmission commands from an image data storing means and a described image editing device image data to express is remembered to be, an image data transmitting means which transmits image data which expresses a picture of at least 2 pieces among described images of two or more pieces to a described image editing device. In a system which can communicate to mutual [which comprises a picture server which it had, and a printer server]. Information about edit of an edited image of one piece generated in a described image editing device using image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces which is a picture server used and was transmitted from a described image data sending means of a described image server, Described image data transmitted from a described image server. Image identification data for specifying, Image data corresponding to a described image of at least 2 pieces memorized by an image-generation-data reception means received from a described image editing device, and image data storing means included in a described image server based on described image identification information transmitted from a described image generated data transmitting means. To an edited image data creating means which generates edited image data which searches and expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on searched image data and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image, and the above-mentioned edited image data creating means. Therefore, a picture server provided with an edited image data transmitting means which transmits the above-mentioned edited image data to the above-mentioned printer server in order to print the above-mentioned edited image using the generated above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 83]Information about edit of an edited image of one piece generated using an image data storing means which memorizes image data, and image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces, Image data. Image identification data for specifying, Search

image data corresponding to a described image of at least 2 pieces memorized by described image data storage means based on an image-generation-data reception means and described image identification information which receive, and based on searched image data and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image the above-mentioned edited image. In order to print the above-mentioned edited image using the above-mentioned edited image data generated by an edited image data creating means which generates edited image data to express, and the above-mentioned edited image data creating means. A picture server provided with an edited-image-data transmitting means which transmits the above-mentioned edited image data to a printer server.

[Claim 84]Information about edit of an edited image of one piece generated using image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces, Image data. Image identification data for specifying. Receive, search image data corresponding to a described image of at least 2 pieces memorized by image data storing means based on described image identification information, and based on searched image data and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image the above-mentioned edited image. A recording medium which stored a program for controlling a computer of a picture server to transmit the above-mentioned edited image data to the above-mentioned printer server in order to generate edited image data to express and to print the above-mentioned edited image using the generated above-mentioned edited image data and in which computer reading is possible.

[Claim 85]In [comprise an image edit device and a printer server with which a picture server with which the 1st image data used for edit of a picture is memorized, and the 2nd image data used for edit of a picture are memorized, and] an image communication system which can communicate mutually. It is a picture server used, Based on transmission commands from a described image editing device, the 2nd image data of the above memorized by the 1st image data of the above transmitted from the 1st image data transmitting means that transmits the 1st image data of the above to a described image editing device, and the 1st image data transmitting means of the above, and described image editing device. Information about generation of an edited image of one piece which used and was generated in a described image editing device, The 1st image data of the above. The 1st image data of the above memorized by the 1st image data storing means of the above based on an image-generation-data reception means and described image identification information which receive image identification information for specifying, and the 2nd image data of the above used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image from a described image editing device. Edited image

data which generates edited image data which searches and expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on the 1st searched image data of the above, the 2nd image data of the above transmitted from a described image editing device, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image. A picture server provided with an edited-image-data transmitting means which transmits the above-mentioned edited image data to the above-mentioned printer server using a creating means and the generated above-mentioned edited image data in order to print the above-mentioned edited image.

[Claim 86]An image data storing means the 1st image data used for edit of a picture is remembered to be, In a described image editing device using the 1st image data of the above transmitted based on transmission commands from the 1st image data transmitting means that transmits the 1st image data of the above to an image edit device, and the 1st image data transmitting means of the above, and the 2nd image data memorized by described image editing device. Information about generation of an edited image of one generated piece, and image identification information for specifying the 1st image data of the above, The 1st image data of the above memorized by the 1st image data storing means of the above based on an image-generation-data reception means and described image identification information which receive the 2nd image data of the above used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image from a described image editing device. An edited image data creating means which generates edited image data which searches and expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on the 1st searched image data of the above, the 2nd image data of the above transmitted from a described image editing device, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image, And a picture server provided with an edited image data transmitting means which transmits the above-mentioned edited image data to the above-mentioned printer server using the generated above-mentioned edited image data in order to print the above-mentioned edited image.

[Claim 87]In a described image editing device using the 1st image data of the above that transmitted the 1st image data to an image edit device, and was transmitted to it based on transmission commands, and the 2nd image data memorized by described image editing device. Information about generation of an edited image of one generated piece, and image identification information for specifying the 1st image data of the above, The 2nd image data of the above used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image, Receive from a described image editing device, search the 1st image data of the above based on described image identification information, and based on the 1st searched image data of the above, the 2nd image data of the above transmitted from a described

image editing device, and information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image the above-mentioned edited image. A recording medium which generated edited image data to express and stored a program for controlling a computer of a picture server to transmit the above-mentioned edited image data to the above-mentioned printer server using the generated above-mentioned edited image data in order to print the above-mentioned edited image and in which computer reading is possible.

[Claim 88]A picture server provided with the 1st image data storing means image data showing two or more pictures of a piece is remembered to be, An image edit device provided with the 2nd image data storing means the 2nd image data showing a picture is remembered to be, In an image communication system which can communicate to mutual [which comprises a printer server]. It is a picture server which is used and to constitute, The 1st image data transmitting means that transmits the 1st image data that expresses a picture of at least 1 piece among described images of two or more pieces memorized by the 1st image data storing means of the above to a described image editing device, Information about generation of an edited image of one piece generated in a described image editing device using the 2nd image data of the above memorized by the 1st image data of the above transmitted from the 1st image data transmitting means of the above, and described image editing device, The 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above. The 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above out of image data memorized by described image server based on an image-generation-data reception means and described image identification information which receive image identification information for specifying from a described image editing device. the 1st image data of the above and the 2nd image data of the above which were searched and searched, and described image identification information -- **. A picture server provided with an edited image data transmitting means which transmits the above-mentioned edited image data to the above-mentioned printer server in order to print the above-mentioned edited image using an edited image data creating means which generates edited image data which is and expresses the above-mentioned edited image, and the generated above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 89]Two or more a picture of a piece. The 1st image data storing means image data to express is remembered to be, The 1st image data that expresses a picture of at least 1 piece among described images of two or more pieces memorized by the 1st image data storing means of the above, In a described image editing device using the 2nd image data of the above memorized by the 1st image data of the above transmitted from the 1st image data transmitting means that transmits to an image edit device which has memorized the 2nd image data, and the 1st image data transmitting means of the

above, and described image editing device. Information about generation of an edited image of one generated piece, The 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above. The 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above out of image data memorized by described image server based on an image-generation-data reception means and described image identification information which receive image identification information for specifying from a described image editing device. In order to print the above-mentioned edited image using an edited image data creating means which generates edited image data which searches and expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on the 1st image data of the above and the 2nd image data of the above, and described image identification information which were searched, and the generated above-mentioned edited image data. The above-mentioned edited image data The above-mentioned printer server. A picture server provided with an edited image data transmitting means which is alike and transmits.

[Claim 90]In a described image editing device using the 2nd image data of the above that transmits the 1st image data showing a picture to an image edit device which has memorized the 2nd image data, and is memorized by the 1st image data of the above, and described image editing device. Information about generation of an edited image of one generated piece, The 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above. The 1st image data of the above that received image identification information for specifying from a described image editing device, searched the 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above out of image data memorized by picture server based on described image identification information, and was searched. And in order to generate edited image data which expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on the 2nd image data of the above, and described image identification information and to print the above-mentioned edited image using the generated above-mentioned edited image data. A recording medium which stored a program for controlling a computer of a picture server to transmit the above-mentioned edited image data to the above-mentioned printer server and in which computer reading is possible.

[Claim 91]An image edit device provided with an image data storing means image data showing two or more pictures of a piece is remembered to be, In an image communication system which can communicate to mutual [which comprises a printer server]. An edited image data reception means which receives edited image data showing an edited image of one piece generated using image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces in described image data which is a printer server used and is memorized by described image data storage means, And a printer server provided with a printing means which prints the above-mentioned edited image using the

above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 92]A printer server provided with an edited image data reception means which receives edited image data showing an edited image of one piece generated using image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces, and a printing means which prints the above-mentioned edited image using the above-mentioned edited image data.

[Claim 93]So that edited image data showing an edited image of one piece generated using image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces may be received and the above-mentioned edited image may be printed using the above-mentioned edited image data. A recording medium which stored a program for controlling a computer of a printer server and in which computer reading is possible.

[Claim 94]A picture server provided with the 1st image data storing means image data showing two or more pictures of a piece is remembered to be, An image edit device provided with the 2nd image data storing means image data showing two or more pictures of a piece is remembered to be, In an image communication system which can communicate to mutual [which comprises a printer server]. Information about edited image generation of one piece which is a picture server used and was generated using a picture of at least 2 pieces out of a picture expressed by image data memorized by the 1st image data storing means of the above, A picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image. A picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image out of image data memorized by the 2nd image data storing means of the above based on an image-generation-data reception means and described image identification information which receive image identification information for specifying from a described image editing device. Image data to express. In order to print the above-mentioned edited image using an edited image data creating means which generates edited image data which expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on image data and described image identification information which search and express a picture of at least 2 searched pieces, and the generated above-mentioned edited image data. The above-mentioned edited image data Above-mentioned printer -. A picture server provided with an edited image data transmitting means which transmits to a server.

[Claim 95]By image data memorized by the 1st image data storing means image data showing two or more pictures of a piece is remembered to be, and the 1st image data storing means of the above. Information about edited image generation of one piece generated using a picture of at least 2 pieces out of a picture expressed, A picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image. Image identification information for specifying. Search image data showing a picture of at

least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image out of image data memorized by the 2nd image data storing means of the above based on an image-generation-data reception means and described image identification information which receive, and a picture of at least 2 searched pieces. In order to print the above-mentioned edited image using an edited image data creating means which generates edited image data which expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on image data and described image identification information to express, and the generated above-mentioned edited image data. A picture server provided with an edited image data transmitting means which transmits the above-mentioned edited image data to a printer server.

[Claim 96]Information about edited image generation of one piece generated using a picture of at least 2 pieces, A picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image. Image identification information for specifying. Receive, search image data showing a picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image based on described image identification information, and a picture of at least 2 searched pieces based on image data and described image identification information to express the above-mentioned edited image. A recording medium which stored a program for controlling a computer of a picture server to transmit the above-mentioned edited image data to a printer server in order to generate edited image data to express and to print the above-mentioned edited image using the generated above-mentioned edited image data and in which computer reading is possible.

[Claim 97]The picture server according to claim 82, 85, 88, or 94 with common described image server and above-mentioned printer server.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]This invention relates to the system and the pictorial communication method an image edit device, a picture server, and a printer server can communicate mutually. This invention relates to the image edit device, picture server, and printer server which constitute such a system. Furthermore, it is related with the recording medium for communication of image data.

[0002]

[Background of the Invention]A user captures an image into his own personal computer

with development of a personal computer, a picture is edited using two or more pictures, and it becomes possible to generate the picture of one desired piece. When printing the picture of one edited piece, it is common to use the printer at a user's house.

[0003]However, since the printer at a user's house is generally a low price, it is common for the image quality of the edited image printed not to be good. In order to obtain a high-definition printing image, it must bring to the laboratory which has a printer of exclusive use [the media (floppy disk etc.) by which the image data showing the edited picture was recorded], and it must print in a laboratory.

[0004]For the user, in order to obtain a high-definition edited image, having gone to a laboratory was complicated and troublesome.

[0005]

[Description of the Invention]An object of this invention is to enable it to print a quality edited image comparatively simply.

[0006]This invention provides the edited image printing method in the image communication system with which a picture server, an image edit device, and a printer server can communicate mutually.

[0007]In a described image editing device, the edited image of one piece is generated using the image data showing the picture of at least 2 pieces, and the information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image is transmitted to a described image server.

[0008]In a described image server, the edited image data which expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on the information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image transmitted from the described image editing device is generated, and the generated above-mentioned edited image data is transmitted to the above-mentioned printer server.

[0009]In the above-mentioned printer server, the above-mentioned edited image is printed using the above-mentioned edited image data transmitted from the described image server.

[0010]This invention also provides the image communication system suitable for enforcing the above-mentioned edited image printing method. This image communication system is a system by which a picture server, an image edit device, and a printer server can communicate mutually.

[0011]The described image editing device is provided with the edited image creation information transmitting means which transmits the information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image generated in the image editing means which generates the edited image of one piece using the image data showing the picture of at

least 2 pieces, and the described image editing means to a described image server.

[0012]A described image server by the edited image data creating means which generates the edited image data which expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on the information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image transmitted from the described image editing device, and the above-mentioned edited image data creating means. It has the edited image data transmitting means which transmits the generated above-mentioned edited image data to the above-mentioned printer server.

[0013]The above-mentioned printer server is provided with the printing means which prints the above-mentioned edited image using the above-mentioned edited image data transmitted from the described image server.

[0014]According to this invention, an edited image is generated in the described image editing device usually put on a user's house. The information about generation of this edited image is transmitted to a described image server from a described image editing device.

[0015]The edited image data which expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on the information about generation of the edited image transmitted from a described image editing device in a described image server is generated, and it is transmitted to the above-mentioned printer server from a described image server.

[0016]In the above-mentioned printer server, the edited image expressed by the above-mentioned edited image data transmitted from the described image server is printed.

[0017]There is a printer in which high-definition printing is possible in a printer server, and printing of an edited image is performed using this printer.

[0018]In a printer server, the printed edited image will be sent to the user of an image edit device by a cash-on-delivery post. The user of an image edit device can receive a quality edited image (product) at a house, without going to a laboratory oneself.

[0019]Generation of an edited image has some methods as follows.

[0020]The 1st method can be applied when the image data which expresses the picture of two or more pieces to a described image server is memorized. The image data showing the picture of at least 2 pieces which transmitted the image data which expresses the picture of at least 2 pieces among the described images of two or more pieces from the described image server to the described image editing device based on the transmission commands from a described image editing device, and was transmitted from the described image server. It uses and the edited image of the one above-mentioned piece is generated in a described image editing device.

[0021]In this case, the image identification information for specifying described image data and the information about edit of the above-mentioned edited image are transmitted to a described image server from a described image editing device.

[0022]In a described image server, the image data corresponding to the described image of the at least 2 above-mentioned pieces memorized by the described image server based on described image identification information is searched, and based on the searched image data and the information about edit of the above-mentioned edited image the above-mentioned edited image. The edited image data to express is generated.

[0023]In a described image communications system, an image edit device or a picture server may be constituted independently. The recording medium which recorded the program for operating an image edit device and a picture server as mentioned above may be created.

[0024]The image data which expresses the picture of at least 2 pieces among the described images of two or more pieces based on the transmission commands from a described image editing device is transmitted to a described image editing device from a described image server.

[0025]A user generates the edited image of the one above-mentioned piece using the image data transmitted from the picture server. Generation of an edited image will transmit the information about this edit, and the image identification information for specifying the picture used for generation of an edited image to a described image server from a described image editing device.

[0026]In a described image server, the image data showing the picture used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image based on described image identification information is searched. Search of this image data will generate the above-mentioned edited image data based on the searched image data and the information about the above-mentioned edit.

[0027]The above-mentioned edited image data is given to a printer server from a picture server, and an edited image is printed in a printer server.

[0028]The 1st image data used for edit of a picture is memorized by the described image server, and the 2nd method can be applied when the 2nd image data used for a described image editing device at edit of a picture is memorized. Based on the transmission commands from a described image editing device, the 2nd image data of the above memorized by the 1st image data of the above that the 1st image data of the above was transmitted to the described image editing device from the described image server, and was transmitted from the described image server, and the described image editing device. It uses and the edited image of one piece is generated in a described

image editing device.

[0029]The information about edit of the above-mentioned edited image, the image identification information for specifying the 1st image data of the above, and the 2nd image data of the above used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image are transmitted to a described image server from a described image editing device.

[0030]In a described image server, Search the 1st image data of the above memorized by the described image server based on described image identification information, and based on the 1st searched image data of the above, the 2nd image data of the above transmitted from the described image editing device, and the information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image the above-mentioned edited image. The edited image data to express is generated.

[0031]The picture server or image edit device which constitutes a described image editing system may be constituted independently, respectively. The recording medium which recorded the program for operating an image edit device and a picture server as mentioned above may be created.

[0032]The 1st image data of the above is transmitted to a described image editing device from a described image server.

[0033]In a described image editing device, the above-mentioned edited image is generated using the 1st image data transmitted from the described image server, and the 2nd image data of the above memorized.

[0034]The image identification information for specifying the information and the 1st image data of the above about generation of the above-mentioned edited image and the 2nd image data of the above used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image are transmitted to a described image server from a described image editing device.

[0035]In a described image server, the information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image to the 1st image data of the above that the 1st image data of the above was searched and was searched from described image identification information, the 2nd image data of the above transmitted from the described image editing device, and the above-mentioned edited image data are generated.

[0036]The generated above-mentioned edited image data is transmitted to the above-mentioned printer server, and the above-mentioned edited image is printed in the above-mentioned printer server.

[0037]The above-mentioned edited image is generable using the 2nd image data of the above memorized by the described image editing device.

[0038]The above-mentioned edited image can be generated using the image data which is not memorized by the described image server, and the edited image of a request of the

user of an image edit device can be generated freely.

[0039]Even in this case, a quality edited image is printed in a printer server. The printed quality edited image can be obtained without the user of an image edit device going to a laboratory.

[0040]The 1st image data that expresses the picture of two or more pieces to a described image server is memorized, and the 3rd method can be applied when the 2nd image data used for a described image editing device at edit of a picture is memorized. Among the described images of a piece, two or more at least the picture of one specific piece. In a described image editing device, the edited image of the one above-mentioned piece is generated using the 2nd image data of the above memorized by the 1st specific image data of the above that transmitted the 1st image data to express to the described image editing device from the described image server, and was transmitted from the described image server, and the described image editing device.

[0041]The information about edit of the above-mentioned edited image and the image identification information for specifying the 1st image data and 2nd image data of the above of the above-mentioned specification are transmitted to a described image server from a described image editing device.

[0042]The 1st specific image data of the above that searched the 1st image data and 2nd image data of the above of the above-mentioned specification out of the image data memorized by the described image server based on described image identification information, and was searched in the described image server. And the edited image data which expresses the above-mentioned edited image based on the 2nd image data of the above and described image identification information is generated.

[0043]The described image server and described image editing device which constitute a described image printing system may be constituted independently, respectively. The recording medium which recorded the program for operating an image edit device and a picture server as mentioned above may be created.

[0044]The 1st specific image data of the above is transmitted to a described image editing device from a described image server. The 2nd image data of the above is memorized by the described image editing device, and the above-mentioned edited image is generated using the 1st image data and 2nd image data of the above of the above-mentioned specification.

[0045]The information and described image identification information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image are transmitted to a described image server from a described image editing device. In a described image server, the 1st image data and 2nd image data of the above of the above-mentioned specification are searched based on the

above-mentioned identification information.

[0046]The above-mentioned edited image data is generated from the information about generation of the 1st specific image data of the above, the 2nd image data of the above, and the above-mentioned edited image which were searched. The above-mentioned edited image is printed by transmitting the above-mentioned edited image data to the above-mentioned printer server.

[0047]A quality edited image can be obtained without the user of an image edit device going to a laboratory.

[0048]Since it is not necessary to transmit the 2nd image data of the above to a described image server from a described image editing device, the air time from a described image editing device to a described image server can be shortened.

[0049]The 4th method can be applied when the image data which expresses the picture of two or more pieces corresponding to mutual to each of a described image server and a described image editing device is memorized. In a described image editing device, the edited image of one piece is generated using the picture of at least 2 pieces in two or more pictures expressed by the image data memorized by the described image editing device.

[0050]The image identification information for specifying the information about edit of the above-mentioned edited image and the picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image is transmitted to a described image server from a described image editing device.

[0051]Search the image data showing the picture of at least 2 pieces used for generation of the above-mentioned edited image in the described image server out of the image data memorized by the described image server based on described image identification information, and the picture corresponding to the picture of at least 2 searched pieces. The edited image data which expresses the above-mentioned edited image from the image data and described image identification information to express is generated.

[0052]The described image editing device and described image server which constitute the above-mentioned edited image printing system may be constituted independently, respectively. The recording medium which recorded the program for operating an image edit device and a picture server as mentioned above may be created.

[0053]The edited image of one piece is generated using the image data showing the picture of at least 2 pieces memorized by the described image editing device. The information about generation and described image identification information of this edited image are transmitted to a described image server from a described image editing device. In a described image server, the image data used for generation of the

above-mentioned edited image based on described image identification information is searched. The above-mentioned edited image is printed in the above-mentioned printer server from the information about generation of the image data and the above-mentioned edited image which were searched.

[0054]The user of an image edit device can get the printed quality edited image, without going to a laboratory.

[0055]In this case, even if it is a case where there is no desired picture in a picture server, the above-mentioned edited image is generable using the picture memorized by the image edit device. And since the information and described image identification information about generation of the above-mentioned edited image are transmitted to a described image server and image data is not transmitted to it, quick transmission is attained.

[0056]When the image data for edited image generation is transmitted to a described image editing device from a described image server for generation of the above-mentioned edited image, it is preferred that the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation is the reduced image data showing a reduction image.

[0057]In a described image server, the above-mentioned edited image data is generated using the image data for printing of high resolution rather than the above-mentioned reduced image data.

[0058]The quick data transmission of the image data transmitted to a described image editing device becomes possible [since it is a reduction image, there is little data volume, and]. To the image data for edit, since the image data for printing of high resolution is used rather than the above-mentioned reduced image data, printing of a quality edited image is maintainable.

[0059]It is preferred to make the above-mentioned authorization code transmit to a described image server from a described image editing device, and to make described image data transmit to a described image editing device, after judging whether transmission of described image data is permitted based on the above-mentioned authorization code. Thereby, it becomes possible to make only a specific user use image data.

[0060]When there are a described image editing device and two or more picture servers which can be communicated and image data is not searched by the above-mentioned retrieval processing, retrieval processing will be performed in other picture servers.

[0061]When image data is that of which the payment of the royalty is demanded by the use based on copyright, it is judged whether the image data searched by the above-mentioned retrieval processing is a picture of an accounting object. In the case of

the image data of an accounting object, the information concerning the above-mentioned fee collection in the information about fee collection is memorized with correlation to the above-mentioned edited image data at a described image server and the above-mentioned printer server. Since the information about fee collection is related with the above-mentioned edited image data, when printing the above-mentioned edited image and sending to the user of an image edit device, it can tell that the picture of an accounting object is used and is charged.

[0062]By the accident in the above-mentioned printer server, printing of the above-mentioned edited image may not be able to be performed in the above-mentioned printer server. In that case, the information about the stop of printing of the above-mentioned edited image is transmitted to either [at least] a described image editing device or a described image server.

[0063]Either [at least] the user of a described image editing device or the operator of a described image server can know the stop of printing. If required, it can print with other printer servers, or the user of an image edit device can be told.

[0064]When there is a stop of printing of an edited image, the information about the above-mentioned fee collection memorized by the described image server and the above-mentioned printer server is deleted.

[0065]The picture which is the target of fee collection is included in the above-mentioned edited image, and when the price is received from the user of an image edit device, the purport of the receipt is memorized by a described image server and the above-mentioned printer server. The information about the above-mentioned fee collection may be deleted.

[0066]By having received the usage fee of the described image server, the information about the receipt may be transmitted to the above-mentioned printer server from a described image server. Thereby, the operator of the above-mentioned printer server can know that the operator of the described image server received the picture server usage fee.

[0067]The information about the receipt may be transmitted to a described image server from the above-mentioned printer server by having received the usage fee of the above-mentioned printer server. Thereby, the operator of a described image server can know that the operator of the above-mentioned printer server received the usage fee of the printer server.

[0068]As for the information about these receipts, enciphering and transmitting is preferred.

[0069]Thereby, the interception from others can be prevented.

[0070]Image data may be memorized by the portability type storage (medium in which carrying, such as a floppy disk and CD-ROM, is free). In this case, image data will be read from this medium and a described image editing device will memorize. As for the image data memorized by the portability type storage, it is preferred that it is the reduced image data showing a reduction image. Thereby, an image editing becomes possible, using this edited image data as it is (without culling out). Since data volume decreases, many data can be stored in a portability type storage.

[0071]It may be made to store data other than the image data used as an accounting object in a portability type recording medium. Since image data other than the image data used as an accounting object serves as the above-mentioned retrieval object, it is not necessary to judge the necessity of fee collection.

[0072]In the above, a described image server and the above-mentioned printer server may be carried out in common.

[0073]When the user of a described image editing device generates the image data for generating the above-mentioned edited image, the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation is memorized to a described image server, and a usage fee can be required of the user of the generated above-mentioned image data for edited image generation.

[0074]In this case, the information about the fee collection corresponding to the image data for edited image generation and the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation which generate the above-mentioned edited image data is transmitted to a described image server from a described image editing device.

[0075]By having memorized the information about the fee collection corresponding to the above-mentioned image data for image generation for edit, and the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation, and having generated the above-mentioned edited image data in the described image server, using the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation. The information about corresponding fee collection is related with the above-mentioned edited image data.

[0076]Based on the information about the fee collection added to the above-mentioned edited image data, a usage fee can be collected to the user of the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation.

[0077]It is good also as change of the information about the fee collection corresponding to the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation being possible. The information about the fee collection changed at this time is related with the above-mentioned edited image data.

[0078]According to the operating mode of the picture expressed by the above-mentioned

image data for edited image generation, the above-mentioned image data usage fee for edited image generation can be changed. For example, in using the picture expressed by the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation in the large state, it sets up a usage fee highly, and when using the picture in the small state, a usage fee can be set up low.

[0079]The template picture data showing the background of the picture which constitutes the above-mentioned edited image may be sufficient as the image data which expresses the picture of one piece among the described images of at least 2 pieces. The picture which has various ornaments by this can be edited. It may be made to charge to a user also about this template picture data.

[0080]In a described image server, it may set up so that the usage fee of the above-mentioned data for edited image generation defined using the information about the fee collection corresponding to the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation may become cheap, as the use count of the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation is calculated and the above-mentioned use count increases.

[0081]Service can be improved to the person using many.

[0082]When the user who generated the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation uses the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation which he generated, even if the image data for edited image generation is a thing of an accounting object, it will be preferred that it is no charge. Thus, when those who can use the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation for free are set beforehand and those [these] that can use it generate the above-mentioned edited image data using the above-mentioned image data for edited image generation, it stops relating the information about corresponding fee collection with the above-mentioned edited image data.

[0083]By having provided the authentication server (certificate authority), having judged whether a described image editing device, a described image server, and the above-mentioned printer server would be just by the above-mentioned authentication server, and having been judged with it being just, It is preferred for communication between a described image editing device, a described image server, and the above-mentioned printer server to be attained.

[0084]Thereby, only a just user can perform an image editing. A person without the authority to use a described image editing device, a described image server, and the above-mentioned printer server can be beforehand prevented from using it.

[0085]A described image editing device and the above-mentioned printer server may be made the same. In this case, if the described image editing device is put on a user's

house, a user can print at a house.

[0086]The restriction data which restricts preferably the printing frequency of the edited image expressed to the above-mentioned edited image data by the above-mentioned edited image data is added, and, as for the above-mentioned printer server, it is preferred that printing of the above-mentioned edited image is permitted to the restricted frequency expressed by the above-mentioned restriction data. An edited image can be beforehand prevented from being printed indefinitely. It is especially effective when the picture used as an accounting object is used for the above-mentioned edited image.

[0087]Preferably, the data about the generation situation of the edited image data in a described image server is transmitted to a described image editing device from a described image server.

[0088]By receiving the data about the above-mentioned generation situation in a described image editing device, the above-mentioned generation situation can be reported to the user of a described image editing device (the display on a screen, an output with a sound). The user of a described image editing device can know the generation situation of an edited image.

[0089]It may be made to transmit the edited image data generated in the described image server to a described image editing device. In a described image editing device, the picture expressed by the edited image data which received can be displayed and printed if needed.

[0090]It may be made it not only to to transmit edited image data to the image edit device of 1, but to transmit it to other image edit devices.

[0091]a format which is different from the format in the edited image data generated in the described image server -- conversion (Post script and HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language).) Conversion to PDF (Portable Document Format), etc. can also be carried out. A user peruses the edited image expressed by edited image data (a user's image edit device accesses a picture server, acquires edited image data, displays on the display of an image edit device, and). Or it prints with a printer and a possibility that a user enables it to see it and can do it becomes high.

[0092]It may be made to transmit the edited image data from which the format was changed to an image edit device. In this case, it is also convertible for the thing of a format which specified the graphics format in the image edit device, and had edited image data specified in a described image server.

[0093]In the image communication system with which an image edit device and a printer server can communicate mutually in this invention, To a described image

editing device, the picture of two or more pieces. Transmit the edited image data which generates the edited image of one piece using the image data showing the picture of at least 2 pieces in the described image data which the image data to express is memorized and is memorized, and expresses the generated above-mentioned edited image to the above-mentioned printer server, and the transmitted above-mentioned edited image data. It uses and the above-mentioned edited image is printed in the above-mentioned printer server.

[0094]This invention also provides the edited image printing system suitable for the above-mentioned edited image printing method.

[0095]Namely, in the image communication system with which the image edit device provided with the image data storing means the image data showing the picture of two or more pieces is remembered to be, and a printer server can communicate mutually, A described image editing device by the image editing means which generates the edited image of one piece using the image data showing the picture of at least 2 pieces out of the described image data memorized by the described image data storage means, and a described image editing means. It had the edited-image-data transmitting means which transmits the edited image data showing the generated above-mentioned edited image to the above-mentioned printer server, and the above-mentioned printer server is provided with the printing means which prints the above-mentioned edited image using the transmitted above-mentioned edited image data.

[0096]The described image editing device and printer server which constitute the above-mentioned edited image printing system may be constituted independently, respectively. The recording medium which recorded the program for operating an image edit device and a printer server as mentioned above may be created.

[0097]According to this invention, the above-mentioned edited image data is generated using the image data memorized by the described image server. The generated above-mentioned edited image data is transmitted to the above-mentioned printer server from a described image editing device. The above-mentioned edited image is printed in the above-mentioned printer server.

[0098]The printed quality edited image can be obtained also in this invention, without the user of an image edit device going to a laboratory.

[0099]When described image data is memorized by the portability type storage, described image data can be memorized to a described image editing device by reading image data from this medium. As for the image data memorized by the portability type storage also in this case, it is preferred that it is reduced image data.

[0100]

[Example](1) The lineblock diagram 1 of an image communication system shows the example of this invention, and shows the entire configuration of the image communication system.

[0101]An image communication system via a network Two or more image edit devices 1 (only one set is illustrated in drawing 1), The main server 30, the picture server 31, and the printer server 32 are mutually connected so that communication is possible (although the picture server 31 is the same as the main server 30, the name and numerals are changed on the facilities of explanation here).

[0102]After the user of the image edit device 1 generated the edited image of one piece using two or more pictures and usually transmits the information about an edited image to the main server 30 in this image communication system, An edited image is printed with the printer server 32, and the printed edited image is sent to the user of the image edit device 1 by mail. There are image data showing the information about the position of the picture which constitutes an edited image, and the edited picture, etc. in the information about an edited image. In detail, it will become clear in future explanation.

[0103]Drawing 2 is a block diagram showing the electric constitution of the image edit device 1. This image edit device 1 is usually put on a user's house.

[0104]Operation of the whole image edit device 1 is generalized by CPU2.

[0105]For RAM4 for storing ROM3 and data temporarily at the image edit device 1, and an image editing. The memory controller 15 for controlling the writing and read-out of data to read-out of the data from VRAM12 for storing temporarily the data showing the picture displayed on the display 14 and ROM3, and RAM4 and VRAM12 is contained. By giving the image data read from VRAM12 to DA converter 13, it is changed into an analog video signal and a picture is displayed on the display 14.

[0106]The bus controller 5, the memory controller 15, and the timer 16 are connected to the image edit device 1.

[0107]System I/O controller 6 is connected to the image edit device 1. To this system I/O controller 6. The modem 11 for connecting with CD-ROM drive 9 for reading the keyboard 7, the mouse 8, and image data for receiving the operator command from the user of ***** 1, FD drive 10, and a network is connected.

[0108]The external I/O controller 18 is connected to the image edit device 1. The flat bed scanner 21, the film scanner 22, the digital still camera 23, and HD drive 24 are connected to this external I/O controller 18. The operation program is memorized by HD drive 24 by HD (hard disk: graphic display abbreviation) in which the read and write of data is free (this operation program). CD-ROM drive 9 is loaded with CD-ROM which

memorized the program, by being read, it is installed in the image edit device 1, and HD memorizes. The below-mentioned predetermined processing is performed by the image edit device by reading the operation program memorized by HD.

[0109]Furthermore, the printer control circuit 19 for controlling the printer 20 and this printer 20 for printing a picture is connected to the image edit device 1.

[0110]A user will edit a desired picture using this image edit device 1. Image editing processing is mentioned later in detail.

[0111]Drawing 3 is a block diagram showing the electric constitution of the main server 30. In this figure, identical codes are given to the same thing as what is shown in drawing 2, and explanation is omitted. The picture server 31 is also the same composition as the main server 30. By the main server's 30 (picture server's 31) also loading CD-ROM drive 9 with CD-ROM which memorized the program, and reading it, an operation program is installed in the main server 30 (picture server 31), and is memorized by HD.

[0112]The high-speed film scanner 25 is connected to the external I/O controller 18 contained in the main server 30. Various kinds of graphics files, a folder, etc. are memorized by the hard disk to which reading and writing of data are performed by HD drive 24 connected to this external I/O controller 18 (refer to drawing 5).

[0113]Drawing 4 is a block diagram showing the electric constitution of the printer server 32. Also in this figure, identical codes are given to the same thing as drawing 2, and explanation is omitted. By the printer server's 32 also loading CD-ROM drive 9 with CD-ROM which memorized the program, and reading it, an operation program is installed in the printer server 32, and is memorized by HD.

[0114]The digital printer 26 for labs is connected to the printer control circuit 19 in the printer server 32. This digital printer 26 for labs is a printer in which quality printing is possible. The picture edited by the user with this printer is printed.

[0115](2) Various file organization drawing 5 shows the various files memorized by the hard disk connected to the main server 30, and the composition of the folder. It cannot be overemphasized that the hard disk connected to the picture server 31 is also carrying out same composition.

[0116]A compilation information management file manages image editing ID published about the compilation information transmitted from the image edit device 1.

[0117]A printed information management file manages the printed information about the edited image data transmitted to the printer server 32 from the main server 30. The image file name of the edited image data transmitted to picture composition ID and the printer server 32 and printer Server Name of a transmission destination are included in

this printed information. This printed information is written in when transmitting edited image data to the printer server 32, and it is deleted based on the terminating notice of printing from the printer server 32.

[0118]A stock image registration table memorizes the file name of the image data memorized by the stock picture folder which the main server 30 mentions later. By checking the file name memorized in the stock image registration table shows whether there is any image data which has the file name in the main server 30. When there is upload of the image data from the image edit device 1 or other picture servers 31, the file name of that image data is memorized in this stock image registration table.

[0119]An order folder manages the edited image control folder for generation of an edited image.

[0120]An edited image control folder is a folder which manages image editing work. This edited image control folder is generated when image editing ID is published. After edited image data is transmitted to the printer server 32, read-out of an edited image control folder is forbidden for protection of a copyright picture and a personal picture. This edited image control folder is also deleted based on the printing terminating notice from the printer server 32.

[0121]The compilation information file, the upload image management file, the transfer-request information management file, and the picture for edit are included in the edited image control folder.

[0122]The compilation information transmitted from the image edit device 1 is memorized by the compilation information storage file corresponding to the picture used for generation of an edited image.

[0123]The file name of the image data uploaded from the image edit device 1 is memorized by the upload image management file. When the image data specified by the compilation information transmitted from the image edit device 1 is memorized by not all the picture server, in order that it may make the user of the image edit device 1 upload the image data, the file name of the image data is memorized.

[0124]A transfer-request information management file manages the information which has advanced the transfer request of the image data to the image edit device 1 or other picture servers 31. The timer name started at the time of the flag in transit which shows whether it is finishing [transmission of the file name of the image data which advanced the transfer request, the data volume of image data, and image data], and a transfer-request start is included in this transfer-request information.

[0125]The edited image data with much data volume by which an edited graphics file is used for printing of an edited image is memorized.

[0126]A stock picture folder is a folder holding the image data memorized by the picture server. The stock picture folder holds the free picture folder, the copyright picture folder, and the personal picture folder.

[0127]In the free picture the free picture which it is not charged but every user can use for a free picture folder freely is remembered to be (refer to drawing 6 and drawing 7). The image data for printing (graphics file for printing) used for printing of an edited image and the reduced image data (reduction image file) which a user uses for generation of an edited image in the image edit device 1 correspond, and is memorized.

[0128]The image data which expresses the copyright picture from which the use serves as an accounting object to a copyright picture folder is memorized.

[0129]The data which expresses the personal picture to which use is permitted only to a specific user is memorized by attesting by the personal picture folder.

[0130]The image data for printing and the reduced image data for edit correspond, and both the copyright picture folder and the personal picture folder are memorized.

[0131]In the attestation table, the authorization code for attesting use of the personal picture memorized by the personal picture folder is memorized.

[0132]In the image edit device 1, the edited image shown in drawing 10 using the picture shown in drawing 6 - drawing 9 is generated.

[0133]Drawing 11 shows the file organization of a reduction image file.

[0134]The size and reduced image data of a header, the tag information (path to data length and reduced image data, etc.) about a picture attribute, URLID, the attribute (distinction of a free picture and copyright picture and a personal picture) of a picture, and the image data for printing are contained in the reduction image file.

[0135]Drawing 12 and drawing 13 show the file organization of the graphics file for printing.

[0136]Drawing 12 is the file organization of a free picture and a personal picture, and drawing 13 is the file organization of a copyright picture.

[0137]With reference to drawing 12, the tag information (path to data length and the image data for printing, etc.) and the image data for printing about a header and a picture attribute are contained in the graphics file for printing of a free picture and a personal picture.

[0138]Drawing 13. The image file name, printing order number of sheets which refer to it and are managed by the copyright picture at the tag information about a picture attribute by transmitting agency Server Name, printer Server Name of a transmission destination, accounting management number, and transmitting agency server other than the path to data length and the image data for printing, The unit price per printing

and a total price are contained.

[0139]The graphics file for printing and the reduction image file corresponding to it are matched by URLID.

[0140]Drawing 14 shows the file organization of an edited image file.

[0141]The tag information and the image data for edit about a header and a picture attribute are contained in the edited image file. The image file name managed by the tag information about a picture attribute by the path to data length and the image data for edit, transmitting agency Server Name, printer Server Name of a transmission destination, the accounting management number, and the transmitting agency server, printing order number of sheets, the unit price per printing, a total price, and an orderer's name, A zip code, the address, the contact telephone number, the contact FAX number, and the contact E-mail address are included.

[0142](3) Drawing 19 shows the outline of the example of use of the image communication system by this example from example drawing 15 of use of the image communication system. The data mutually transmitted and received in an image communication system is stored temporarily RAM4 in each device or a server, and is memorized by the hard disk if needed.

[0143]Drawing 15 edits a picture using the reduction image expressed by the reduced image data which downloaded the reduced image data showing the reduction image memorized by the main server 30 and the picture server 31 to the image edit device 1, and was downloaded in the image edit device 1.

[0144]In this case, the user of the image edit device 1 demands transmission of the image data which expresses a desired picture with the main server 30 and the picture server 31 for edit of a picture. The main server 30 and the picture server 31 will transmit the reduced image data of image data according to the transfer request to the image edit device 1, if the transfer request from the image edit device 1 is received.

[0145]In the image edit device 1, editing work of a picture is performed using the reduced image data transmitted from the main server 30 and the picture server 31. After edit of the picture by a user finishes, the compilation information for generating an edited image is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1. At this time, image data is not transmitted to the main server 30.

[0146]The main server's 30 reception of the compilation information from the image edit device 1 will generate the edited image data which expresses an edited image based on this compilation information. The generated edited image data is stored in an above-mentioned edited graphics file. When image data required for generation of edited image data is not memorized by the main server 30, it communicates with other

picture servers 31, and image data downloads to the main server 30.

[0147]If edited image data is generated, the edited image data will be transmitted to the printer server 32, and it will be printed in the printer server 32. The printed edited image is mailed to the user of the image edit device 1.

[0148]In [drawing 16 downloads the reduced image data showing the reduction image memorized by the main server 30 and the picture server 31 to the image edit device 1, and] the image edit device 1. A picture is edited using the picture for printing expressed by the image data for printing memorized by the reduction image expressed by the downloaded reduced image data and the image edit device 1.

[0149]Also in this case, reduced image data downloads from the main server 30 and the picture server 31 to the image edit device 1. In the image edit device 1, editing work of a picture is performed using the picture for printing remembered to be a reduction image expressed by the downloaded reduced image data. If required, processing which decreases the image data for printing to the data volume of reduced image data will be performed by CPU2. After edit of the picture in a user finishes, the image data for printing memorized by the image edit device 1 used for edit of compilation information and a picture is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1.

[0150]In the main server 30, edited image data is generated from the compilation information and the image data for printing which were transmitted. The generated edited image data is transmitted to the printer server 32, and an edited image is printed.

[0151]Drawing 17 edits a picture using the reduction image which downloads the reduced image data memorized by the main server 30 and the picture server 31 to the image edit device 1, and is expressed by the downloaded reduced image data, and the reduction image memorized by the image edit device 1.

[0152]The reduced image data read in FD (floppy disk) is memorized by the image edit device 1.

[0153]If an image editing is performed by the user of the image edit device 1 using the reduction image remembered to be the downloaded reduction image, compilation information will be transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1. Image data is not transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1.

[0154]In the main server 30, the image data for printing used for generation of an edited image based on compilation information is searched. Edited image data is generated from the image data for printing and compilation information which were searched. The generated edited image data is transmitted to the printer server 32, and an edited image is printed.

[0155]Drawing 18 generates edited image data in the image edit device 1.

[0156]The image data for printing and reduced image data which were read in FD are memorized by the image edit device 1.

[0157]An edited image is generated using the picture for printing expressed by the image data for printing for two or more pieces memorized by the image edit device 1. The edited image data showing the generated edited image is transmitted to the printer server 32 from the image edit device 1.

[0158]An edited image is printed using the edited image data which received in the printer server 32.

[0159]Drawing 19 generates an edited image using the reduction image expressed by the reduced image data memorized by the image edit device 1.

[0160]A user edits a picture using the reduction image expressed by the reduced image data (read in FD etc.) memorized by the image edit device 1. Compilation information is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1. The image data for printing for using for generation of an edited image based on compilation information in the main server 30 is searched. Edited image data is generated from the searched image data for printing, and it is transmitted to the printer server 32. An edited image is printed in the printer server 32.

[0161](4) Picture reading processing drawing 20 in an image edit device to drawing 25 is a flow chart which shows the procedure of reading processing of a picture. This processing is performed according to the operation program installed in the image edit device 1. Drawing 26 and drawing 27 show an example of the screen displayed on the display 14 of the image edit device 1 in picture reading processing.

[0162]First, it is judged whether a picture is read from a server (the main server 30 or the picture server 31) or it carries out from a driver (CD-ROM drive 9 or FD drive 10) (Step 41). As for the user, the picture read from a server understands beforehand the copyright picture or the free picture, or the personal picture, and the kind of picture read in a server is judged (Step 42). When the picture to read is a copyright picture or a free picture, the application name of the software which controls operation of the image edit device 1 to the main server 30, and its version names are transmitted to the main server 30 (Step 43).

[0163]Between fixed time, if it waits for the response from the main server 30 and the response does not exist, an error will be displayed on the display 14 as having no response (being Step 44 and Step 45 YES, Step 51).

[0164]If the response from the main server 30 is within fixed time (it is NO at Step 45), it will be judged whether the main server 30 permits access of a copyright picture (Step 46). That is, the software of the image edit device 1 of operation is judged based on the

application name which transmitted whether it was what can memorize freely the image data of the copyright picture downloaded from the main server 30 so that read-out is possible to the main server 30. Since unapproved use of a copyright picture can be prevented if the image data of a copyright picture is not freely memorizable so that read-out is possible, access of a copyright picture is permitted (being Step 46 YES). Permission of access will acquire URL of a copyright picture folder (Step 47). Thereby, the picture selection picture where the picture expressed by the reduced image data memorized by the copyright picture folder which has the URL as shown in drawing 27 is displayed is displayed on the display 14 of the image edit device 1 (Step 60).

[0165]If access of a copyright picture is refused by the main server 30 (it is NO at Step 46), it will be judged whether the picture which the user is going to access is a free picture (Step 48). If it is a free picture, URL of a free picture folder will be acquired (Step 49). Thereby, a picture selection picture is displayed on the display 14 (Step 60). If the picture which the user is going to access is not a free picture, an error will be displayed as having no permission of attestation (Step 50).

[0166]If the picture which it is going to download from the main server 30 is a personal picture (Step 41), the authorization code input screen shown in drawing 26 will be displayed on the display 14 (Step 52).

[0167]With reference to drawing 26, the field A1, A2, A3, and A4 are formed in the authorization code input screen.

[0168]The field A1 is a field which displays the e-mail address inputted by the user. The field A2 is a field which displays the authorization code inputted by the user. Field A3 is a field where the inputted e-mail address or authorization code is clicked by the user at the time of the right. Field A4 is a field clicked by the user for cancellation, when the inputted e-mail address or authorization code is an error.

[0169]It returns to drawing 22 and an authorization code is inputted by the user (Step 53). The inputted authorization code is uploaded to the main server 30 (Step 54).

[0170]It waits for the response from the main server 30 between fixed time, and if there is no response, an error will be displayed on the display 14 as having no response (being Steps 55 and 56 YES, Step 59). If there is a response from the main server 30, it will be judged whether it is what permits access of a personal picture.

[0171]If the authorization code which the user inputted is not indicated in the attestation table of the main server 30, it is displayed on the display 14 as attestation refusal (being Step 57 NO, Step 58).

[0172]If the authorization code which the user inputted is indicated in the attestation table, access will be permitted as a valid user which can use a personal picture (being

Step 58 YES).

[0173]A display of the picture selection picture shown in drawing 27 will choose the picture downloaded to the image edit device 1 by a user (Steps 60 and 61). As shown in drawing 27, field A5, A6, A7, and A8 are contained in the picture selection picture.

[0174]The picture expressed by the image data field A5 is remembered to be by the free picture folder, the copyright picture folder, or the personal picture folder is displayed. The picture which it means that the picture was chosen when a user clicks the picture top currently displayed on field A5, and was chosen is displayed on the field A6. The field A7 is clicked when downloading the data showing the selected picture, and the field A8 is clicked when canceling.

[0175]It returns to drawing 23, if a picture is chosen, the data showing the file name of the image data showing the picture will be transmitted to the main server 30, and the image data memorized by the main server 30 downloads to the image edit device 1 (Step 62). The retrieval processing of the image data in the main server 30 is mentioned later in detail.

[0176]If the main server 30 to a response cannot be found into fixed time, an error will be displayed on the display 14 as having no response (being Step 63 YES, Step 71). If a read error occurs, that will be displayed on the display 14 and the image data under download will be deleted. This ends reading processing of image data temporarily (being Step 64 YES, 68, 69, 70). If required, it will access with the main server 30 again.

[0177]After there is also no read error and download of image data is completed, the image data is registered into a picture list (being Step 65 YES, Steps 66 and 67). In an image edit device, this picture list is used for edit of a picture like the after-mentioned.

[0178]When reading image data from a driver with reference to drawing 24, the format of the image data showing the picture which should be read among the image data recorded on the medium with which the driver was equipped is checked (Step 72). If it is not the format which the image data can read (it is NO at Step 73), that will be displayed on a display (Step 75). If it is the format which the image data can read (it is YES at Step 73), it will be judged whether the image data is reduced image data (Step 74).

[0179]If it is not reduced image data (it is NO at Step 74), the image data will be judged to be the high-definition image data for printing with much data volume, and the image data will be read (Step 80). That will be displayed if a read error occurs in the middle of reading of image data (being Steps 81 and 82 YES, Step 83).

[0180]The read image data is registered into a picture list for generation of an edited image (Steps 84 and 85).

[0181]If the image data memorized by the medium is reduced image data (it is YES at Step 74), it will be judged whether URLID is attached to the reduced image data (Step 77). If not attached, the reduced image data is read as it is (Step 80). If URLID is attached (Step 77), the confirmation message of whether the image data for printing corresponding to the reduced image data read in the medium by the server specified by the URLID is memorized will be transmitted to the server. An error display will be performed if a server to a response cannot be found into fixed time (Step 97).

[0182]If there is no image data for printing corresponding to the reduced image data (it is NO at Step 87), a reduction image will be displayed noting that it is not supported (Step 96). If there is image data for printing, the image data for printing will be transmitted from a server, and it will register with the picture list of image edit devices 1 (Steps 88-92). If a read error occurs when having downloaded the image data for printing from the server, an error display will be carried out, and the image data for printing downloaded to the middle is deleted (Steps 93-95).

[0183]Based on the above picture reading processing, the picture list of [for generation of an edited image] is generated on RAM4 of the image edit device 1.

[0184]Drawing 28 to drawing 36 is a flow chart which shows the procedure of the image editing processing in the image edit device 1, and image output processing. This processing is also performed according to the operation program installed in the image edit device 1. Drawing 37 and drawing 38 show an example of the display screen of the display 14 of the image edit device 1. Drawing 39 shows an example of the compilation information transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1.

[0185]In an image editing and an output process, the screen shown in drawing 37 is first displayed on the display 14 of the image edit device 1. In this screen, the field A10, the field A11, the field A12, the field A13, and the field A14 are included.

[0186]The field A10 is editing area and an edited image (refer to drawing 10) is displayed on this field A10. The field A11 is a control panel and the division for giving the instructions for edited image generation to this field appears. The field A12 is a picture list display field, and the picture (for example, picture shown in drawing 6 - drawing 9) registered into the picture list is displayed on this field. The field A13 is an edit result power range, and the compilation information for generation of an edited image, etc. are outputted by clicking this field. An image editing and an output process are ended by clicking the field A14.

[0187]In an image editing and an output process, the check of a picture list is performed first (Step 103). In drawing 33, if a picture list is checked and there is a picture list, the image data registered into the picture list will be read, and a picture will be displayed

on a picture list display field (Step 140-143).

[0188]Then, editing area is clicked by the user when editing a picture (Step 101 and 110). Then, it becomes image editing mode.

[0189]When editing a picture, the picture currently displayed on the picture list display field A12 is dragged by the user to the position of a request of editing area (Step 111). If required, directions of adjustment of the size of the picture which constitutes an edited image from the control panel field A11, etc. will be given by the user. Picture selection will be canceled if the position of an edited image, adjustment of a size, etc. are completed (being 114 Step 112, 113, YES). If it does not end, drawing of editing area is updated according to the directions from a control panel (Step 116).

[0190]After edit of a picture is completed, it shifts to an edit result output process by the click of edit result output area (Step 102).

[0191]It may output to a medium or printers, such as a case where it outputs to a server in an edit result output process, and a disk.

[0192]When outputting to a server (Step 106), format conversion of the compilation information is carried out so that it can transmit to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 (Step 117). As shown in drawing 39, order data, a print kind, a file name, URLID, a picture attribute, a file size, the order of drawing, and a drawing signal are included in compilation information. This compilation information is generated by reading the information (refer to drawing 11) incidental to the data showing the picture selected in image editing mode. After this format conversion finishes, an order input screen as shown in drawing 38 is displayed on the display 14.

[0193]With reference to drawing 38, the field A21, the field A22, the field A23, and the field A24 are included in the order input screen. A user inputs order data, looking at this order input screen. There are personal information and order number of sheets in order data. There are printing's of an edited image's name and the furigana, the zip code, the address, the telephone number, FAX number, and e-mail address of an orderer (user) in personal information. If such personal information is inputted, it will be displayed on the field A21. An input of order number of sheets will display the number of sheets on the field A22. If the personal information and the order number of sheets which were inputted are right, the field A23 will be clicked. If the inputted personal information or the order number of sheets is an error, the field A24 will be clicked.

[0194]It returns to drawing 30, and if it does in this way and order data are inputted by the user (Step 119), a print command will be given to the image edit device 1 from a user (Step 120). The compilation information by which format conversion was answered and carried out to this print command is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image

edit device 1. It cannot be overemphasized that format conversion also of the order data inputted by the user is carried out.

[0195]If there is no upload image data from a user, it will return to processing of either Step 105, 106 and 107.

[0196]If there is upload image data from a user (it is YES at Step 122), it will become the receiving waiting of the upload request from the main server 30 between fixed time (Step 123). Between fixed time, if there is no upload request from the main server 30, an error display will be carried out as having no response from a server (being Step 124 YES, Step 130).

[0197]If image data with the file name of the picture included in the compilation information transmitted from the image edit device 1 is not memorized by the main server 30 or other picture servers 31, A user uploads the image data memorized by its own image edit device 1, makes an edited image generate in the main server 30 using the image data, and judges that you are going to make it print the edited image in the printer server 32. For this reason, an upload request is outputted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30. If the upload request from the main server 30 occurs between fixed time (it is NO at Step 124), the list of image data which is an upload place folder and the target of upload (upload list) will be transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30 (Step 125).

[0198]The file name of the image data which it is going to transmit to the upload list transmitted from the main server 30 in the image edit device 1 and the main server 30 is compared (Step 126). As a result of this collation, if in agreement (it is NO at Step 127), the image data specified with an upload list will be transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 (Step 128). If collation is inharmonious (it is YES at Step 127), a collation error will be displayed on the display 14 (Step 129). If a collation error occurs, upload of image data will be performed again if needed.

[0199]In the image data showing an edited image, when using the printer of an image edit device for a disk and printing preservation or an edited image on it, (Step 107) and the field first for [in RAM4 of the image edit device 1] the output of image data are secured (Step 131). It continues and it is judged based on the attribute of the picture added to reduced image data whether at least one copyright picture is included in the picture which constitutes an edited image (refer to Step 132 and drawing 11).

[0200]If the copyright picture is not included (it is NO at Step 133), it memorizes to the field of RAM4 (Step 134). If the copyright picture is not included in the edited image, the user can save or print the edited image freely.

[0201]If all the image data showing the picture which constitutes an edited image is

made to memorize for a generating picture by RAM4, it will be judged based on a user's instructions whether the edited image is printed using the printer 20 or the edited image data is saved on a disk. If any specification cannot be found, the abnormalities in print selection will be displayed on the display 14 (Step 138).

[0202]When printing an edited image using the printer 20, YES) and the image data for edit stored temporarily are read from RAM4 at the (step 136, and it is outputted to the printer 20 (Step 146). If all the edited image data is normally outputted to the printer 20 from RAM4, having ended normally will be displayed on the display 14 (Step 147-149). If abnormalities arise in the output of the edited image data from RAM4 to the printer 20, a print error will be displayed on the display 14 (Step 150). Print processing will be performed again if needed.

[0203]Format conversion of edited image data is performed by CPU2 so that it can save on YES) and a disk at the (step 137, when saving edited image data on a disk (Step 151). Compression processing of edited image data will be performed if needed with this format conversion.

[0204]If preservation of the edited image data to a disk is completed normally, the purport of normal termination will be displayed on the display 14 (Step 153 and 154). If abnormalities arise in preservation of the image data to a disk, the error of writing will be displayed on the display 14 (Step 155).

[0205]After all the image editings and image output processings are completed, the end region A14 is clicked by the user. All of the image data and compilation information which answer this click and are stored temporarily RAM4 are eliminated (Step 144 and 145). Thereby, since copyright image data is also eliminated, a user can prevent using a copyright picture freely.

[0206](5) Authenticating processing drawing 40 and drawing 41 in a main server are a flow chart which shows the procedure of the authenticating processing in the main server 30. This processing is performed according to the operation program installed in the main server 30.

[0207]This authenticating processing has the attestation of a stock picture performed when downloading the attestation, copyright image data, or free image data of a personal picture performed when downloading personal image data from the main server 30 from the main server 30.

[0208]The procedure of this authenticating processing receives the compilation information from the image edit device 1, and is started by detecting the access request to a free picture folder, a copyright picture folder, or a personal picture folder (Step 161). Between fixed time, if it becomes the authentication demand waiting from the image

edit device 1 and passes over this fixed time, the data which expresses a rejecting access with the image edit device 1 will be transmitted (being 163 Step 162, and YES, 170).

[0209]If an authentication demand occurs in fixed time, it will be judged whether it is attestation of a personal picture (Step 164). If it is attestation of a personal picture, it will become the receiving waiting of the authorization code from the user of the image edit device 1 (Step 165). If the authorization code from a user is received in fixed time, collation with the authorization code transmitted by the user and the authorization code memorized by the main server 30 will be performed (Step 166 and 167). If this collation is in agreement (it is YES at Step 168), URL of a personal picture folder will be transmitted to the user of the image edit device 1 (Step 169). Thereby, since URL of a personal picture folder is obtained, the user can access with a personal picture folder, and he can download the personal image data memorized by the personal picture folder.

[0210]When collation with the authorization code which an authorization code was not transmitted by the user into fixed time, or was transmitted by the user, and the authorization code memorized in the attestation table is inharmonious, the data which expresses a rejecting access to a user is notified (Step 170).

[0211]In attestation of a stock picture, or is judged for the image data which requires YES) and the download from a user at the (step 171 if you please in a copyright picture (Step 172). If it is not a demand of a copyright picture (it is NO at Step 172), it will be regarded as the download request of free image data. URL of the data in which free image data expresses an access permit to a user since all the users are permitted use freely, and a free picture folder is transmitted.

[0212]If the image data which requires download is copyright image data, As the application software of the image edit device 1 mentioned above. It is judged based on the application name memorized in the application name and version to which it was transmitted by the user whether it is what cannot memorize the downloaded copyright image data freely so that read-out is possible, and the application attestation table (Step 173).

[0213]Based on an application attestation table, by the application software which accepts download of copyright image data. If it is judged that the image edit device 1 is operating (it is YES at Step 174), the URL name of data and a copyright picture folder which shows a user an access permit will be transmitted. Thereby, a user becomes downloadable [copyright image data]. If the application software of the image edit device 1 does not accept download of copyright image data, the data showing a rejecting access will be transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30 (Step 176).

[0214](6) Reception and image editing processing drawing 42 of compilation information

to drawing 45 is a flow chart which shows the procedure of the image editing processing based on reception of the compilation information in the main server 30 transmitted from the image edit device 1, and this compilation information. This processing is also performed according to the operation program installed in the main server 30.

[0215]This processing is started by receiving the compilation information from the image edit device 1 (Step 181 and 182).

[0216]If the compilation information from the image edit device 1 is received, management ID will be published corresponding to the compilation information, and it will register with a compilation information management file (Step 183). It continues and the edited image folder specified by management ID published for generation of edited image data is generated (Step 184).

[0217]It is judged whether it is contained in the edited image which URL of the picture which constitutes the received edited image next received.

[0218]If contained in the compilation information which URL of the picture received (it is YES at Step 186), the image data showing the picture will be judged to be what is memorized by the main server 30 or the picture server 31, and a stock image registration table will be checked (Step 187). If URL of the picture currently recorded on the compilation information received to the stock image registration table is memorized (it is YES at Step 188), it will be memorized by the compilation information storage file whether URL and the image data of the picture are memorized by which folder (Step 206). Since the main server 30 cannot search the image data which constitutes an edited image unless URL of the picture is memorized by compilation information, the image data showing the picture cannot generate a user's edited image, if not transmitted from the image edit device 1. For this reason, the file name of that picture is memorized by the upload image management file (Step 189). The file name of the picture is memorized by the transfer-request information management file (Step 190).

[0219]When URL of the picture which constitutes an edited image is in compilation information and there is no URL of the picture in the stock image registration table of the main server 30, it is thought that the image data which expresses the picture with other picture servers 31 is memorized. For this reason, it is asked whether the image data which has URL of that picture in other picture servers 31 from the main server 30 is memorized (Step 191).

[0220]In other picture servers 31, it is judged whether the image data which received the inquiry based on the stock image registration table which the other picture servers 31 have is memorized.

[0221]The main server 30 checks whether the image data is memorized by other picture

servers 31 based on the reply data from other picture servers 31 (Step 192, 193, and 194). Since an edited image is ungenerable based on the compilation information transmitted by the user unless the image data is memorized by other picture servers 31, an error display is carried out to the display 14 of the main server 30 (Step 202). The data showing generation of the edited image not having been completed but having ended unusually is transmitted to a user (Step 203). Since an edited image is ungenerable, an edited image control folder is deleted (Step 204,205).

[0222]When the image data which is a picture which constitutes an edited image in other picture servers 31, and is not in the main server 30 is memorized, the picture attribute of the picture memorized by YES) and compilation information at the (step 194 is checked (Step 195). When the picture attribute is a thing showing a free picture, the image data of the picture memorized by YES) and other picture servers 31 at the (step 196 is transmitted to the main server 30, and a free picture folder memorizes (Step 197). The file name of that image data is memorized with this memory in a stock image registration table (Step 198). When the picture attribute is not a thing showing a free picture (a copyright picture or a personal picture), at the (step 196 NO), Since management will become complicated if the same image data is memorized by two or more picture servers 31, the edited image control folder deleted later memorizes (Step 201).

[0223]If memory of the image data to a free picture folder or an edited image control folder is started, a timer will start a time check (Step 199). The file name of the image data is memorized by the transfer-request information management file (Step 200). It is memorized whether furthermore the image data is memorized by the compilation information storage file at which folder (Step 206).

[0224]or [the thing made to upload from whether the image data is in the main server 30 or it is in other picture servers 31 about all the pictures which constitute the edited image memorized by compilation information, and the image edit device 1] -- *****, after a check is completed (Step 207), The file name of the image data which a user should be made to upload based on the data memorized by the upload image management file is transmitted to the image edit device 1 (Step 208). The time check of an upload timer begins (Step 209).

[0225]It continues and the data showing the compilation information transmitted from the image edit device 1 is memorized by the compilation information management file (Step 210).

[0226]A transfer-request information management file is referred to, and the image data which the main server 30 receives, and its image size are checked (Step 211 and

212). If it does not have image size with which the image data which the main server 30 has received was checked, it is still judged as under reception of image data (being Step 213 NO, Step 216, and 217). Even if it waits between fixed time, after reception of image data is not completed (it is YES at Step 217), it ends as an error (Step 218). If image data is judged to have ended reception based on the image size, the flag in transit in a transfer-request information management file will be made clear (Step 214).

[0227]If it is judged that all the image data that should receive in the main server 30 with reference to a transfer-request information management file was received, all the time checks of the timer of the main server 30 stop (being Step 215 YES, Step 220).

[0228]Again, a transfer-request information management file is referred to, and the flag in transit is checked (Step 221).

[0229]If the number of flags in transit is also one, it will be transmitted to the image edit device 1 as an error. Since generation of the edited image of a user's request is impossible, an edited image control folder is deleted (Step 229-232). Since it will be thought that all the image data that should be transmitted from the image edit device 1 or other picture servers 31 received if one does not have a flag in transit in a transfer-request information management file, it becomes generable [an edited image].

[0230]For generation of an edited image. An edited image management file is referred to and the collection image data of ** finishing is generated based on the data showing where the image data which constitutes the compilation information and the edited image data which are memorized by this edited image management file is memorized (Step 224 and 225). If edited image data is generated, RAM will memorize temporarily.

[0231]In order to prevent edited image data from being generated again, reading of the data managed by the edited image control folder is forbidden (Step 226). The generated edited image data is given to the display 14. The operator of the main server 30 looks at the edited image, and an edited image is checked (Step 227). If the edited image is displayed, the printer server 32 which was most suitable for printing of the edited image based on the kind of printing included in compilation information will be chosen (Step 233).

[0232]Edited image data is again generated for printing of an edited image (Step 234), and edited image data is transmitted to the selected printer server 32 (Step 235). The edited image data is registered into a transmitting management file (Step 236).

[0233](7) Communications processing drawing 46 between servers is a flow chart which shows the procedure of the communications processing between the main server 30 and the picture server 31.

[0234]When there is no image data showing the picture which constitutes an edited

image as mentioned above in the main server 30, an inquiry is performed to the picture server 31 from the main server 30. Processing of drawing 46 begins by this inquiry. Other picture servers' 31 acceptance of the acknowledge request from the main server 30 will receive the file name of the image data as which the check of the existence was required in the picture server 31 (Step 242). (Step 240 and 241) It is checked whether as for the picture server 31, the file name of the image data which received is memorized in the stock image registration table (Step 243). If the file name is memorized in the stock image registration table, that will be transmitted to the main server 30 of acknowledge request origin, and image data with the file name is also transmitted (Step 245 and 246). If the file name is not memorized in a stock image registration table, that is transmitted to the main server 30 of acknowledge request origin (Step 245 and 244).

[0235](8) Printing job drawing 47 and drawing 48 in a printer server are a flow chart which shows the procedure of printing of the edited image in the printer server 32. This processing is performed according to the operation program installed in the printer server 32.

[0236]This processing is started by receiving the edited image data transmitted from the main server 30. A printing graphics file (graphic display abbreviation) is generated by receiving edited image data.

[0237]If the edited image data transmitted from the main server 30 in the printer server 32 is received (Step 261 and 262), Transmitting agency Server Name and transmission destination Server Name which are included in the tag information about the picture attribute added to edited image data are checked (Step 263 and 267). A check of all will print the edited image expressed by edited image data and its order sheet with the digital printer 26 for labs (Step 269). An order sheet is printed based on memory of the picture tag information added to edited image data.

[0238]Printing of an edited image will check whether the edited image is normally printed by the operator of the printer server 32 (Step 270). If printed normally, the printed matter will be packed up by the operator of the printer server 32, and will be sent to the user of the image edit device 1 with a cash-on-delivery post (Step 273 and 274). The file for printing pictures edited image data is remembered to be by this is deleted (Step 275).

[0239]In a printing job, when transmitting agency Server Name cannot be checked, an error display is carried out and a printing graphics file is deleted (Step 265 and 266). when transmission destination Server Name or the printed edited image is judged to be unusual, an error display should do -- the data which is alike also in transmission of edited image data, and expresses abnormal termination is transmitted (Step 276 and

277).

[0240](9) End acceptance processing drawing 49 of printing in a server is a flow chart which shows the procedure performed in the server 30 or 31, when printing of an edited image is completed in the printer server 32. This processing is also performed according to the operation program installed in the server 30 or 31.

[0241]This processing is started by receiving the data showing the notice of the end of printing of the edited image from the printer server 32.

[0242]Reception of the data showing the end of printing from the printer server 32 will judge whether the error occurred in printing (Step 252). (Step 250,251) If the error has not occurred, the data showing having been printed normally is transmitted to the image processing device 1 (Step 253). Thereby, the user of the image edit device 1 can know that an edited image will be mailed later. If the error has occurred, the data which means that abnormalities arose in printing in the image edit device 1 will be transmitted (Step 254). By this, the user of the image edit device 1 will edit a picture again if needed, and will transmit edited image information to the main server 30.

[0243]It continues, an edited image control folder is deleted, and the information about an edited image is deleted from a transmitting management file (Step 256).

[0244](10) the confirming processing of the generation situation of an edited image -- the printing state of the edited image in the edit situation of an edited image in the main server 30, and the printer server 32, when the order of printing of an edited image is performed to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 as mentioned above, It may be made to tell the user of the image edit device 1.

[0245]In telling the user of the image edit device 1 about the edit situation and printing state of an edited image, If compilation information is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1, the data which expresses reception of compilation information with the image edit device 1 which transmitted compilation information from the main server 30 which received compilation information, and peculiar ID for a check will be transmitted.

[0246]The user of the image edit device 1 transmits transmitted ID for a check to the main server 30, when checking an edit situation and a printing state. The condition data which expresses an edit situation and a printing state when ID for a check transmitted from the image edit device 1 in the main server 30 is received is transmitted to the image edit device 1. In the image edit device 1 which received condition data, the edit situation and printing state of an edited image are displayed on the display 14 based on the condition data. The user of the image edit device 1 can know the edit situation and printing state of an edited image by seeing the display of the

display 14 of the image edit device 1.

[0247]Drawing 52 shows an example of the edit situation of the edited image in the main server 30 displayed on the display 14 of the image edit device 1, and the printing state from drawing 50. A screen is scrolled when it cannot display on 1 screen.

[0248]After the user of the image edit device 1 receives the order of printing of an edited image, drawing 50 from the user for an inquiry of a printing state. When ID for a check is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1, it is an example of the screen displayed on the display 14 of the image edit device 1 with the condition data transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30. The display of this screen is attained by accessing, for example on the homepage of the Internet.

[0249]The icon I1 which expresses the situation that a situation is known at a glance directly is displayed on a screen. According to the situation, two or more states are displayed on the icon I1. It is skillfully displayed so that the icon equivalent to the present situation can distinguish from other icons. The user of the image display device 1 understands the present situation immediately. The contents which the user ordered are also displayed on a screen (viewing area I2). Since an order content is displayed, the user can check an order content immediately. Here, the store name which goes for a user to receive the printed edited image as what goes to receive is also displayed. Age and sex are also displayed. When the field I3 is clicked by the user, it returns to a basic screen.

[0250]Drawing 51 shows an example of the screen displayed on the display 14 of the image edit device 1, when an edited image is generated in the main server 30 and ID for a check is transmitted to a main server from the user of the image edit device 1.

[0251]In this case, it is skillfully displayed so that the icon which shows the check of the completion in the icon I1 can distinguish from other icons. The picture edited into the field I4 is displayed. The user can check whether the desired edited image has been edited by seeing this edited image. If it checks that the desired edited image is edited, the field I6 will be clicked by the user. Printing of an edited image will be performed. When the edited image of a user's request is not edited, the field I5 is clicked by the user. It becomes cancellation of an order by the click of the field I5.

[0252]When printing of an edited image ends drawing 52, the printed edited image is delivered by the shop front specified by a user and ID for a check is transmitted to the main server 30 from the user of the image edit device 1, an example of the screen displayed on the display 14 of the image edit device 1 is shown.

[0253]It is skillfully displayed so that the icon which shows a receipt in the store in the icon I1 can distinguish from other icons. The information which shows the store of a

receipt is displayed on the field I7. The edited image printed when the user of the image edit device 1 went to the receipt store is receivable.

[0254](11) Explain accounting in case the copyright picture is used for the accounting ** outline edited image of the copyright picture.

[0255]Drawing 53 shows the flow of the whole image communication system in case accounting is performed. Drawing 54 (A) - (C) An example of the file generated by the main server 30 and the picture server 31 is shown, and drawing 55 shows an example of the file generated by the printer server 32.

[0256]When performing accounting, it is drawing 54 (A). - (C) Three account files are generated by the main server 30 and the picture server 31 so that it may be shown. (A) it is alike, and the 1st shown account file is referred to when generating edited image data using the copyright image data memorized by its copyright picture folder. (B) it is alike, and the 2nd shown account file is referred to for the management, when generating an edited image using the copyright image data memorized by the copyright picture folder of other servers. (C) it is alike, and the 3rd shown account file is referred to for the management, when copyright image data is used for the edited image data transmitted to the printer server 32.

[0257]Transmission destination Server Name, an image file name, the unit charging cost per copyright picture, printing number of sheets, a sum total charging cost, the accounting management number, the receipt number, the received flag, and the cancel flag are contained in the 1st account file.

[0258]Compared with the 1st charging flag, transmitting agency Server Name, customer data, and the flag paid money are memorized by the 2nd account file instead of transmission destination Server Name, the receipt number, and the received flag. It has the same composition as the 1st account file at the 3rd account file.

[0259]With reference to drawing 55, compared with the 1st account file, it replaces with the account file of the printer server 32 at a receipt number and a received flag, and customer data and the flag paid money are memorized.

[0260]It returns to drawing 53, and if the edited image data generated by the compilation information transmitted from the image edit device 1 does not use copyright image data, when impossible, processing is performed as follows.

[0261]It is judged whether the main server 30 has a demand of a copyright picture in the compilation information, when the compilation information transmitted from the image edit device 1 is received. If there is a demand of a copyright picture, that the image data showing the copyright picture is remembered to be by its copyright picture folder, or the thing memorized by the copyright picture folder of other picture servers 31

will be judged based on URL. If its copyright picture folder memorizes, an accounting management number will be published and distributing agency Server Name, an image file name, a unit charging cost, printing number of sheets, a sum total charging cost, an accounting management number, and customer data will be memorized by the 2nd account file. If the copyright picture folder of other picture servers 31 memorizes, an accounting management number and a receipt number will be transmitted to the other picture servers 31. Other picture servers 31 will memorize transmission destination Server Name, an image file name, a unit charging cost, printing number of sheets, and a sum total charging cost to the 1st accounting management file, if these accounting management numbers and a receipt number are received.

[0262]When the copyright image data required of the copyright picture folder of other picture servers 31 from the image edit device 1 is memorized and copyright image data is transmitted to the main server 30 from other picture servers 31. Transmission destination Server Name, an image file name, a unit charging cost, a sum total charging cost, and an accounting management number are memorized by the tag information which is alike and is added to the copyright image data. The main server 30 judges whether it is the image data which came to itself by checking such tag information.

[0263]If the image data transmitted from other picture servers 31 is received, the main server 30 will check the tag information memorized by the image data which received, and will read accounting information. The read accounting information is memorized by the 2nd accounting management file.

[0264]In the main server 30, if edited image data is generated as mentioned above, the accounting information of a copyright picture used for the generation will be memorized by the 3rd accounting management file. When the copyright picture memorized by the main server 30 at this time is used, it cannot be overemphasized that the accounting information about that copyright image data is also memorized.

[0265]Accounting information is memorized by the tag information added to the edited image data generated in the main server 30, and it is transmitted to the main server 30.

[0266]If edited image data is received in the main server 30, accounting information will be read out of the tag information added to edited image data, and the 3rd account file will memorize.

[0267]** Describe the fee collection in the case of editing the details of accounting, next a picture and printing the edited picture in detail.

[0268]Drawing 55 (A) And (B) An example of the part picture which constitutes the edited image memorized by the main server 30 is shown, and drawing 57 shows an example of the template picture used as the background of a part picture. Here,

although these part pictures and template pictures are copyright pictures used as an accounting object, in order to make it intelligible, the word a part picture and "template picture" is used. Drawing 58 shows an example of the part picture memorized by the image edit device 1, and drawing 59 shows the edited image. The case where drawing 55 prints the edited image shown in drawing 59 using the picture shown in drawing 58 is explained.

[0269]A part picture and a template picture are generated by the main server 30 and the accessible user, respectively. The part picture and template picture which were generated are registered into the main server 30, respectively (memory). A registration fee is needed in registering a part picture and a template picture into the main server 30. When a picture is registered, the design fee of the picture is paid to the maker of a picture. A usage fee is required of those who use the registered picture.

[0270](i) part image registration accounting -- it is charged when registering the created part picture into the main server 30 as mentioned above. Drawing 60 is a flow chart which shows the procedure of the accounting in the case of registering a part picture into the main server 30.

[0271]Drawing 55 (A) Or (B) The part picture for printing as shown is generated by the user. A user's image edit device 1 and main server 30 which generated the part picture are connected, and the Request to Send of a part picture is transmitted to the main server 30. The image data showing the generated part picture is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 (Step 261). Part image data is transmitted by the part image registration file shown in drawing 61. The design fee at the time of the edit which ID of the owner of a copyright of a header and a part picture who shows that it is a part image registration file, the ID list of those who can use the part picture for free, and the generation person of a part picture expect of a part image registration file, the design fee at the time of printing, an edit usage fee, The high-definition part image data used for a printing usage fee and printing is contained.

[0272]The main server's 30 reception of the part image data transmitted from the image edit device 1 will display the part picture expressed by the part image data on the display of the main server 30. The operator of the main server 30 checks whether the part picture displayed on the display of the main server 30 is seen, and part image data is destroyed (Step 271).

[0273]Destruction of part image data will transmit the stop of registration of a part picture to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30 (Step 273). (it is NO at Step 272) If the image edit device 1 receives the data in which a registration stop is shown (it is YES at Step 262), that will be displayed on the display 14 of the image edit device 1,

and predetermined processing, for example, re-registration etc., will be performed.

[0274]If part image data is not destroyed (it is YES at Step 272), with reference to the design fee and usage fee which are included in the part image registration file, the design fee and usage fee of the part picture will be determined. The determined design fee, a usage fee, and the registration fee of a part picture are transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30 (Step 274). The design fee and usage fee which were determined may serve as a fee as the user set up, and may be reformed.

[0275]If the user of the image edit device 1 does not consent with the design fee and usage fee which were transmitted from the main server 30 (it is NO at Step 263), stopping registration of a part picture will be transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 (Step 264). The main server 30 ends image registration processing by receiving the registration interruption data transmitted from the image edit device 1. (Being Step 275 YES).

[0276]If the user of the image edit device 1 consents with the design fee and usage fee which were transmitted from the main server 30 (it is YES at Step 263), the data in which the purport of consent is shown will be transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 (Step 265). Then, part ID peculiar to the part image data is published (Step 276).

[0277]It continues and the thumbnail image data for choosing the part image data for edit used for edit and a part picture from the part image data for printing transmitted from the image edit device 1 is generated (Step 277). When the part image data for edit and thumbnail image data are generated, it is based on the part image data transmitted from the image edit device 1, and is drawing 62 (A). The shown part graphics file for printing is generated. It is based on the part image data for edit, and is drawing 62 (B). The shown part graphics file for edit is generated, and it is based on thumbnail image data, and is drawing 62 (C). The shown thumbnail image file is generated. A header, part picture ID, owner-of-a-copyright ID, and image data are contained in any file.

[0278]Thus, the part graphics file for printing, the part graphics file for edit, and the part graphics file for thumbnails which were generated are memorized by the hard disk (database) connected to the main server 30 (refer to Step 278 and drawing 77).

[0279]Thus, after registration of a graphics file is completed in the database of the main server 30, the notice of completion of registration is transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30, and the user who generated the part picture is asked for the registration fee of a part picture (Step 279).

[0280]The image edit device 1 will pay a registration fee by charging the registration fee of a part picture from the main server 30 (Step 266).

[0281](ii) Template picture generation processing drawing 63 is a flow chart which shows the procedure of template picture generation processing.

[0282]A template picture is generable using a part picture. When generating a template picture using a part picture, communication is performed between the image edit device 1 and the main server 30 which generate a template picture.

[0283]First, the Request to Send of a thumbnail part picture is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 (Step 281).

[0284]If the Request to Send of a thumbnail part picture is received in the main server 30, the database of the main server 30 will be searched and a thumbnail part picture will be transmitted to the image edit device 1 (Step 291).

[0285]In the image edit device 1, reception of the thumbnail part image data transmitted from the main server 30 will carry out the list display of the thumbnail part picture expressed by thumbnail part image data to the display 14 of the image edit device 1. The user of the image edit device 1 chooses the part picture used for generation of a template picture from the list of the thumbnail part pictures displayed on the display 14 (Step 282).

[0286]It is distinguished based on part ID corresponding to a part picture in whether the user of the image edit device 1 has the selected part picture (Step 283).

[0287]The image data to which the selected part picture expresses the part picture if the user of the image edit device 1 has (it is YES at Step 283) is read to the image edit device 1 (Step 284). If the user of the image edit device 1 does not have the selected part picture (it is NO at Step 273), the Request to Send of the data of the part picture for edit corresponding to the part picture is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 (Step 285). Processing of Step 282 to the step 285 is repeated about all the part pictures used for a template picture (Step 286).

[0288]If the main server 30 receives the Request to Send of a part picture from the image edit device 1, the user of a part picture will be checked according to a gratis utilization permission person ID list in whether you are a gratis utilization permission person of the part picture (Step 292).

[0289]If the user of a part picture is a gratis utilization permission person of the part picture (it is YES at Step 292), data will be transmitted to the part picture for edit corresponding to the part picture from the main server 30 at the image edit device 1 (Step 293).

[0290]If the user of a part picture is not a gratis utilization permission person of the part picture (it is NO at Step 292), a design fee will be read from a database at the time of the part image editing usage fee and edit (Step 294). A design fee is paid to the

generation person of the part picture according to the read design fee (Step 295).

[0291]The number of times for which the user who demanded transmission of a part picture used the part picture is checked (Step 296). A part image editing usage fee and a part image printing usage fee become cheap according to a use count. In this example, the discount rate of a part image editing usage fee becomes high, so that a use count increases as the edit fee discount table is shown in drawing 74.

[0292]If this is the first time that a user uses the part picture (it is YES at Step 297), user data will be registered newly (Step 298). If this is not the first time that a user uses the part picture, a discount rate will be searched from the edit fee discount table shown in a user's use count and drawing 74 (Step 299).

[0293]Anyway, the usage fee of the user who uses a part picture is computed (Step 300). It *****s the use count of the part picture of a user (Step 301).

[0294]The data of the part picture for edit corresponding to the part picture demanded by the user is transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30 (Step 293).

[0295]If the data of the part picture for edit is obtained, the layout of a template picture will be performed. Generation of a template picture will set up the layout fee about the template picture (Step 287).

[0296]Generation of a template picture will perform registration processing of the template picture next.

[0297](iii) Template picture registration division gold processing drawing 64 and drawing 65 are flow charts which show the registration processing of a template picture.

[0298]When registering a template picture into the main server 30, unlike the case where a part picture is registered into the main server 30, a design fee and a usage fee are set up also about the part picture which constitutes a template picture (this is called extra charge). This extra charge is set up by the user and is eventually determined between the main servers 30.

[0299]When registering a template picture into the main server 30, the template picture catalogued file shown in drawing 66 is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 (Step 311). Unlike a part graphics file, to this template file, at the time of the edit about the part picture which constitutes a template picture A design fee (at the time of edit specially design fee), The usage fee (at the time of printing specially usage fee) is included corresponding to the part picture which constitutes a template picture at the time of a usage fee (at the time of edit specially usage fee), and printing at the time of a design fee (at the time of printing specially design fee), and edit at the time of printing.

[0300]The contents will be checked if a template picture file is transmitted to the main

server 30 (Step 321). If the resulting image data of the check is destroyed, that will be transmitted to the image edit device 1 (being Step 322 NO, 323). In the image edit device 1, predetermined processing is performed according to a registration stop (Step 312). If the resulting image data of the check is not destroyed (it is YES at Step 322), the part picture which constitutes a template picture is searched (Step 324).

[0301]It is judged whether you are the gratis utilization permission person of a part picture by whom the maker of the template picture was searched (Step 325).

[0302]If it is not a gratis utilization permission person (it is NO at Step 325), the extra charge contained in a template registration file will be transmitted to the user who created the part picture (Step 326). When the user who created the part picture does not consent to the extra charge transmitted from the main server 30, a new extra charge is set up by the user who created NO) and its part picture at the (step 327 (Step 328). When the user who created the part picture consents to an extra charge, processing of YES) and Step 328 is skipped at the (step 327. Processing of Step 324 to the step 329 is repeated about all the part pictures which constitute a template picture.

[0303]A design fee, an edit usage fee, and a printing usage fee are referred to at the time of a design fee and printing at the time of the edit which the user who generated the extra charge and template picture which were determined set up, A design fee, an edit usage fee, and a printing usage fee are determined at the time of a design fee and printing at the time of edit of a template picture (Step 330). The determined fee is transmitted to the image edit device 1 which generated the template picture, and if the user who generated the template picture consents to the fee, template picture ID will be published (being Step 313 YES, 315, 332). If a user does not consent to a fee, registration of a template picture will be stopped (being Step 313 NO, 314, 331).

[0304]Drawing 67. (A) the template picture file for printing and drawing 67 (B) which are boiled and shown The template picture file for edit and drawing 67 (C) which are shown The shown thumbnail template picture file is generated and it registers with the database of the main server 30 (Step 333 and 334). The use number of a header, template ID, owner-of-a-copyright ID, and a part picture is memorized by each of the template picture file for printing, the template picture file for edit, and the thumbnail template picture file. Part picture ID and layout information are memorized by the template file for printing corresponding to the number of a part picture. A template picture will be reproduced based on part ID and layout information. Thumbnail image data is memorized by the thumbnail template picture file. A thumbnail template picture is reproduced by reading this thumbnail image data.

[0305](iv) Image editing accounting drawing 68 is a flow chart which shows the

procedure of accounting when performing an image editing.

[0306]In its own image edit device 1, an image editing performs image editing processing using the part picture registered into the main server 30. For this reason, when performing an image editing, accounting becomes being almost the same as that of the procedure of accounting at the time of the template creation shown in drawing 63. The numerals same about the same processing as the processing shown in drawing 63 are attached, and explanation is omitted.

[0307]If all the part pictures that constitute a template picture from template accounting shown in drawing 63 are read into the image edit device 1, the layout of a template picture is performed and the layout fee sets up -- having (Step 287) -- in the image editing accounting shown in drawing 68. The already memorized user images are combined with their image edit device 1, and image editing processing is performed (Step 288). [the template picture or part picture transmitted from the main server 30, and]

[0308](v) It is a flow chart which shows the procedure of fee collection in case drawing 72 prints an edited image from edited image printing division gold processing drawing 69.

[0309]First, printing fee gold is initialized (Step 340). Next, it is distinguished whether an edited image is printed using the template picture already registered into the main server 30 (Step 341).

[0310]When printing an edited image using the template picture already registered into the main server 30, the fee in the case of printing at the (step 341 using YES) and a template picture is computed (from Step 342 to 351).

[0311]First, it is confirmed whether to be a gratis utilization permission person of the template picture which those who placed an order for printing of an edited image use (Step 342). If it is a gratis utilization permission person (it is YES at Step 342), the usage fee of a template picture will turn into no charge. If it is not a gratis utilization permission person (it is NO at Step 342), according to order number of sheets, the usage fee and design fee gold of a template picture will be computed (Step 343). The computed design fee is paid to the maker of the template picture from the operator of the main server 30 (Step 345).

[0312]The number of times for which the user who is going to print an edited image used the template picture is searched and checked from a database (Step 346).

[0313]Like the time of editing a picture, if it is a case where the template picture data is used for the first time, the data of those who placed an order for printing of an edited image will be registered newly (Step 350).

[0314]If there is already use of the template picture data (it is NO at Step 347), the use count will be read from a database. A fee becomes cheap as a printing job is shown in drawing 73 and the use count of the same template picture increases like an image editing. With reference to the printing fee gold discount table shown in drawing 73, a discount rate is searched based on a use count (Step 348). The usage fee per printing of a template picture is determined using the searched discount rate (Step 349). Printing number of sheets can take advantaging of the determined usage fee, and when printing using the template picture, the usage fee of a template picture is determined (Step 351). It *****s the use count of a template picture.

[0315]Calculation of the usage fee of a template will compute the usage fee of the part picture which constitutes the template picture next (from the drawing 70 step 352 to 363).

[0316]First, the part picture which constitutes a template picture is searched in the main server 30 (Step 352). A fee is computed like fee calculation of the template picture mentioned above for each [which was searched] part picture of every. That is, it is judged whether an orderer is a gratis utilization permission person of a part picture, and if it is not a gratis utilization permission person, the design fee of a part picture will be paid to the user who created the part picture (Step 354 and 355).

[0317]The use count of the part picture is searched and the part picture usage fee for every piece is determined according to the use count (Step 356-361). Printing number of sheets can take advantaging of a part usage fee for every determined piece, and the usage fee of the part picture which constitutes a template picture is determined (Step 361-363).

[0318]When not using the template picture registered into the main server 30, the fee about the part picture used for printing is computed (from the drawing 71 step 364 to 375).

[0319]It is carried out like the calculation of the fee of a part picture which constitutes the calculation and the template picture of the fee of a template picture which the fee about this part picture also mentioned above.

[0320]First, a part picture is searched in the main server 30 (Step 364). It is distinguished for every searched part picture whether the orderer of printing is a gratis utilization permission person of the part picture. A design fee will be paid to the maker of the part picture if it is not a gratis utilization permission person (Step 366 and 367). The use count of the part picture is checked and the usage fee for one piece of the part picture is computed according to a use count (from Step 369 to 373). Printing number of sheets can take advantaging of the fee for one computed piece, and the fee of the part

picture in the case of printing is computed (Step 374).

[0321]Calculation of the usage fee at the time of printing of the part picture which constitutes a template picture and a template picture, or the usage fee at the time of printing of a part picture will compute the price for a paper.

[0322]Drawing 75 shows the paper price table. The price for a paper is defined for every paper, and the price for a paper corresponding to the kind of paper specified by the orderer is read (Step 376).

[0323]The fee of the kind of service of how to print is determined.

[0324]Drawing 76 shows the table of the price for a service kind. A price is defined for every kind of service of printing, and a corresponding price is read from a table (Step 377).

[0325]Thus, final printing fee gold is computed by all of the usage fee of the computed picture, the price for a paper, and the price for print service being added (Step 379). The orderer of printing is asked for this final printing fee gold.

[0326](12) Explain receipt processing of a price, next receipt processing of a price.

[0327]If the printed matter of the edited image printed in the printer server 32 with reference to drawing 78 is received by price receipt payment mail, the price will be remitted to the operator of the printer server 32. The usage fee of printing fee gold and an image transmission system and the charging cost of a copyright picture are contained in a price. It becomes the same processing even when receiving at a store rather than receiving the printed matter of an edited image by price receipt payment mail.

[0328]The operator of the printer server 32 collects printing fee gold, and remits the remaining prices to the operator of the main server 30. The flag paid money is checked by the accounting management file of the printer server 32 at this time.

[0329]If a price is received, the operator of the main server 30 will collect the usage fee of the main server 30, and the usage fee of a copyright picture, and will remit the remaining prices to other picture servers 31. At this time, the flag of the 2nd accounting management file of the main server 30 paid money is checked. Received information (the receipt number, the image file name, the unit charging cost, the sum total charging cost, date, and accounting object customer name which were enciphered) is transmitted to the printer server 32. The receipt number is enciphered because [of forgery prevention].

[0330]The operator of the picture server 31 will collect the usage fee of a copyright picture, if a price is received. Furthermore, the received flag of the 1st picture account file of the picture server 31 is checked. The received information containing the receipt

number, the image file name, the unit charging cost, sum total charging cost, and date which were enciphered is transmitted to the printer server 32 from the picture server 31. Thereby, the operator of the printer server 32 can check that the operator of all the servers has received the fee. Other servers may be told about the printer server 32 having received the price.

[0331](13) processing of printing cancellation generating -- explain processing when cancellation of printing of an edited image next arises in the printer server 32.

[0332]With reference to drawing 79, an accident occurs in the printer server 32, and when printing of an edited image cannot be performed, the cancel flag in the accounting management file of the printer server 32 is checked. Cancellation is notified to the main server 30. If a cancel report is received in the main server 30, the cancel flag of the 2nd accounting management file of the main server 30 will be checked. Cancellation is notified to the picture server 31. The picture server 31 will check the cancel flag of the 1st picture account file, if a cancel report is received.

[0333]The main server 30 and the picture server 31 which received the cancel report transmit the cancel report mail which includes the receipt number, the image file name, date, and accounting object customer name which were enciphered in the printer server 32. The cancellation mail which furthermore contains a receipt number, an accounting object customer name, an image file name, a cancellation name, and a date in the image edit device 1 from the main server 30 is transmitted. Thereby, the user of the image edit device 1 can know that printing of the edited image was canceled, and its reason.

[0334](14) Although transmitting and receiving processing of image data is performed in the authenticating processing above-mentioned example, without performing authenticating processing between the image edit device 1, the main server 30, and the picture server 31, Data can also be transmitted and received after checking whether you are a just person by an electronic signature using a certificate authority.

[0335]Drawing 80 shows the procedure in the case of transmitting and receiving data between the image edit device 1 and the main server 30 using a certificate authority.

[0336]The certificate authority 35 other than the image edit device 1 and the main server 30 is formed. Here, as for the picture server 31 and the printer server 32, the graphic display is omitted.

[0337]Each of the user of the image edit device 1 and the operator of the main server 30 transmits a client's public key and client name to the certificate authority 35 for an authentication request. In this case, if it is, public key KO2 of the main server 30 and a name (ID) will be transmitted to the certificate authority 35 from the image edit device 1 at the certificate authority 35 from public key KO1, name (ID), and the main server 30

of the image edit device 1.

[0338]In the certificate authority 35, if it admits that the image edit device 1 and the main server 30 are just persons, the certificate of attestation which enciphered public key KO1 of the image edit device 1 and the name which were received by secret key KS0 of the certificate authority will be generated. The certificate of attestation which enciphered public key KO2 of the main server 30 and the name which were received similarly by secret key KS0 of the certificate authority is generated.

[0339]Certificate authority public key KO0 is enciphered by public key KO1 of the image edit device 1, and certificate authority public key KO0 and the certificate of attestation which were enciphered are transmitted to the image edit device 1. In the image edit device 1, certificate authority public key KO0 enciphered using secret key KS1 of the image edit device 1 can be decoded. Certificate authority public key KO0 is enciphered by public key KO2 of the main server 30, and certificate authority public key KO0 and the certificate of attestation which were enciphered are transmitted to the main server 30. In the main server 30, certificate authority public key KO0 enciphered using secret key KS2 of the main server 30 can be decoded.

[0340]If a certificate of attestation is received in the image edit device 1, ordering information will be enciphered by secret key KS1 of the image edit device 1, and the enciphered ordering information and the certificate of attestation of the image edit device 1 will be transmitted to the main server 30.

[0341]In the main server 30, reception of the data transmitted from the image edit device 1 will decode the certificate of attestation of the image edit device 1 by certificate authority public key KO0. Thereby, the main server 30 acquires the information on public key KO1 of the image edit device 1, and the image edit device 1. The compilation information transmitted and enciphered from the image edit device 1 is decoded by public key KO1 of the decoded image edit device 1, and compilation information and the information on the image edit device 1 are acquired. Thus, it is judged whether the information on the two obtained image edit devices 1 is in agreement, when in agreement, it judges that the image edit device 1 is just, and is a just order, and an edited image is printed. The order of the printing picture in a mischief, etc. can be prevented beforehand.

[0342]When the information about fee collection, etc. are able to be attested, it may be made similarly to judge it as the request for a just price.

[0343](15) Although the application above-mentioned example of the image print system explained the time of the image edit device 1 and the printer server 32 being in somewhere else, the image edit device 1 and the printer server 32 may be in the same

place (a user's house). The image edit device 1 and the printer server 32 may consist of same apparatus.

[0344]First, the case where the image edit device 1 generates the edited image which should be printed is explained.

[0345]Drawing 81 shows the situation of the data communications performed between the image edit device 1, the main server 30, the picture server 31, and the printer server 32.

[0346]An edited image is generated from two or more pictures, and the edited image data showing an edited image is transmitted to the printer server 32 which is in the same place as the image edit device 1 from the main server 30. In the printer server 32, an edited image is printed from edited image data.

[0347]If an edited image is printed in the printer server 32, the data showing the compilation information and the printing number of sheets of an edited image which were printed will be transmitted to the main server 30 from the printer server 32.

[0348]Reception of the data showing the compilation information and the printing number of sheets which were printed will generate a copyright picture use file in the main server 30, as shown in drawing 82 from the received data.

[0349]The file name of the header which shows that it is a copyright picture use file, and a copyright picture, Server Name (URL) which has managed the copyright picture, Server Name (URL) which has managed compilation information, and printing frequency are memorized by the copyright picture use file.

[0350]It is judged whether the copyright picture which other servers (here, it is considered as the picture server 31) other than main server 30 have managed is included in the edited image printed based on the compilation information transmitted from the printer server 32. When the copyright picture which the picture server 31 has managed is included, a copyright picture use file is transmitted to the picture server 31.

[0351]Based on the copyright picture use file transmitted from the main server 30, the main server 30 is asked for the usage fee of a copyright picture from the picture server 31.

[0352]The usage fee of the copyright picture managed in the usage fee and the main server 30 of a copyright picture which are managed in the picture server 31 is transmitted to the printer server 32 from the main server 30.

[0353]When the usage fee of a copyright picture is charged, the user (he is also a user of the image edit device 1) of the printer server 32 will pay the usage fee of a copyright picture to the operator of the main server 30.

[0354]A copyright picture usage fee is computed as follows.

[0355]Drawing 83 shows the copyright picture use list file. This copyright picture use file is managed in the main server 30. It is generated for every copyright picture. The header which shows that it is a copyright picture use file, a copyright image file name, Server Name (URL) which manages the copyright graphics file, and a usage fee are memorized by the copyright picture use file.

[0356]Since the main server 30 will grasp the usage fee if it is a copyright picture which the main server 30 manages, a usage fee is memorized by the copyright graphics file.

[0357]If it is a copyright picture which the picture server 31 manages, a copyright picture use file will be transmitted to the picture server 31 from the main server 30, and a usage fee will be computed in the picture server 31. The computed usage fee is transmitted to the main server 30 from the picture server 31.

[0358]If the data which expresses the usage fee of a copyright picture from the picture server 31 is received, it will be written in the column of the usage fee of a copyright picture use file with which the usage fee with which it is expressed by the data corresponds.

[0359]If all the usage fees of a copyright picture are obtained, the data in which the total amount is computed in the main server 30, and expresses the computed total amount will be transmitted to the printer server 32 from the main server 30.

[0360]Next, an edited image is generated in the main server 30, and by having received the usage fee from the user of the printer server 32 explains the case where the edited image data for printing in which printing frequency was restricted is transmitted to the printer server 32 from the main server 30.

[0361]With reference to drawing 84, generation of the edited image for printing is requested from the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 as mentioned above. This request is answered and the edited image for printing is generated in the main server 30. In the main server 30, the usage fee of a copyright picture is computed from the compilation information transmitted from the image edit device 1, and printing number of sheets.

[0362]Calculation of the usage fee of a copyright picture will ask the user of the image edit device 1 for the computed usage fee from the main server 30. If the user of the image edit device 1 pays a usage fee according to this claim, the edited image file for printing shown in drawing 85 will be transmitted to the printer server 32 from the main server 30.

[0363]The header which shows that it is an edited image file for printing, a copyright picture usage fee, the printing number of sheets which can be printed, and the edited image data for printing are contained in the edited image file for printing.

[0364]The edited image file for printing is received in the printer server 32, and whenever the edited image data for printing of the edited image file for printing is read and printed in the printer server 32, decrement of the number of sheets which is contained in the edited image file for printing and which can be printed is carried out. When the number of sheets which can be printed is set to 0, printing of the edited image expressed by the edited image data for printing is forbidden. Even if it is in the same place as the image edit device 1, the number of times of printing in the printer server 32 can be restricted.

[0365]Although the edited image is printed in a printer server in the application mentioned above, Next, the edited image data generated in the main server 30 may be transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30 so that it may state, and in the image edit device 1, the edited image expressed by edited image data may be displayed and printed. In this case, edited image data is registered into the main server 30, and the registered edited image data is transmitted to the image edit device 1. The edited image expressed by the edited image data transmitted from the main server 30 in the image edit device 1 can be displayed and printed. Of course, it displays without printing an edited image, or it can also print without displaying. This is called inspection of the edited picture by the user in the image edit device 1.

[0366]It not only can peruse the edited image which the user of 1 registered to the main server 30, but it can peruse the edited image which other users registered to the main server 30. Of course, the edited image which the user itself who registered the edited image registered by himself can be perused. When allowing an inspection, deletion of the edited image data in the main server 30 is stopped. When allowing an inspection, the image editing processing which used the copyright picture is forbidden.

[0367]Drawing 86 shows the processing which prints the edited image expressed by edited image data in the image edit device 1. Drawing 87 and drawing 88 show an example of the screen displayed on the display 14 of the image edit device 1, when performing processing shown in drawing 86, and drawing 89 to drawing 93 is a flow chart which shows the details of processing of drawing 86.

[0368]The image editing software installed in the image edit device 1 is started by the user (Step 381). Starting of image editing software will display the selected window W1 for performing registration of the edited image shown in drawing 87 and drawing 88, and selection of an inspection on the display screen of the display 14. When perusing the field and edited image which are clicked by the user when registering an edited image into the main server 30 in the selected window W1, the field clicked by the user is included. When one of fields is clicked by the user, it shifts to registration of the edited

image according to the clicked field, or inspection processing of an edited image (Step 381).

[0369]First, the registration processing of an edited image is explained. Here, an edited image is registered for every category. At the time of registration of an edited image, it is given by the main server 30 so that ID peculiar to edited image data may not overlap with ID of other edited image data. Given peculiar ID is recorded on the tag area of an edited image file.

[0370]Mainly with reference to drawing 87 and drawing 89, the category selected window W2 which shows the category which classifies an edited image is displayed on the display screen of the display 14 of the image edit device 1 in edited image registration processing (Step 401). Here, "information", a "message board", "self-introduction", and "miscellaneous subject" are defined as a category. A user judges into which category the edited image which is going to look at these categories and the user itself is going to register goes. The category of the edited image registered by clicking the field of a category which a user desires is chosen (Step 402). Here, the "message board" should be chosen as a category.

[0371]The list Request to Send of the template picture data registered into the category chosen when the category was chosen by the user occurs, and it is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 (Step 403).

[0372]In the main server 30, if the list Request to Send of the template picture data from the image edit device 1 is received (Step 410), The table of the reduction image file name of the template registered into the category with the selected user of the image edit device 1 is generated (Step 411). The reduction image of a template is searched from the table of the generated file name, and the data for carrying out the list display of the template picture is generated (Step 412).

[0373]The generated template picture list display data is transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30. Based on the received template picture list display data, a template list is displayed on the display screen of the display 14 of the image edit device 1 (Step 404 and window W3).

[0374]Various template pictures for edit according to the category which the user chose are displayed on template list window W3. A user chooses a desired template picture by clicking it from the template pictures for edit currently displayed on template list window W3 (Step 405).

[0375]Selection of the template picture of a user a request will transmit the requested data of the selected template picture to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 (Step 406). In the main server 30, reception of the template picture requested data from

the image edit device 1 will search the template picture for edit of the template which answered the reception and was demanded. The found template picture data is transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30 (Step 413). The template picture data for edit transmitted from the main server 30 is received in the image edit device 1 (Step 406).

[0376]Reception of the template picture data for edit will perform image editing processing as mentioned above using a template picture for edit, a free picture, etc. which are expressed by the template picture data for edit (Step 407). In image editing processing, the editing window W4 is displayed on the display screen of the display 14. In image editing processing, compilation information is also inputted as mentioned above. Here, in addition to compilation information, the input of the message put up for a message board is also performed (Step 408). The personal information entry window W5 is displayed on the display screen of the display 14 for the input of a message.

[0377]An end of image editing processing will transmit user images required in order to generate edited image data, compilation information, and a message to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 (Step 409). At this time, the window W6 which shows under edited image transmission is displayed.

[0378]In the main server 30, a picture, compilation information, personal information, etc. which were received are registered (Step 414). The edited image data showing the edited image which the user of the image edit device 1 generated from a free picture, compilation information, and a message is generated. PostScript conversion of the generated edited image data is carried out. The generated edited image data is changed also into HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language). The edited image data furthermore generated is changed also into PDF (Portable Document Format). The edited image data generated in this way is changed and registered into three different document formats. The reduction image of an edited image is also generated (Step 415). The window W7 which shows registration completion is displayed on the display 14 of the image edit device 1.

[0379]The processing result of the generation processing of the edited image data in the main server 30, the conversion process to various document formats, and the generation processing of a reduction image is transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30. If the user of the image edit device 1 who received the processing result is required in order to perform again processing which examined the processing result and whose completion was not completed, he will perform image editing processing again.

[0380]The registration processing of an edited image is completed as mentioned above. Next, the case where inspection processing is performed is described (Step 382).

[0381]If an inspection field is mainly clicked by the user in the selected window W1 with reference to drawing 88 and drawing 91 - drawing 93, the window W12 for choosing the document gestalt which peruses an edited image will be displayed on the display screen of the display 14 (drawing 91, Step 421). The field which specifies the gestalt of the document to peruse as the document gestalt selected window W12 is included. Here, the field which specifies the browser perused in the field perused using the browser for exclusive use which displays an edited image, the browser perused by HTML form, the browser perused in PDF form, and PostScript form is included. The document gestalt perused by clicking the field of the document format which a user peruses among these fields is chosen (drawing 91, Step 422).

[0382]It continues and the inspection category selected window W13 is displayed on the display screen of the display 14 (drawing 91, Step 423). The edited image to peruse is classified for every category of the, and the category is chosen by the user when perusing (drawing 92, Step 424). The field which shows the category to peruse is displayed on the inspection category selected window W13. The field showing the category of the request to peruse is clicked by the user.

[0383]A user's selection of a category will change subsequent processing according to the document gestalt to peruse. If the document to peruse is a document gestalt of a Page Description Language (it is YES at drawing 92 and Step 423), the table of the file name of the edited image registered into the category with the user selected in the main server 30 will be generated (drawing 93, Step 441). The data showing the file name in the generated table is transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30. The file name registered into the selected category is displayed in the file name list window W16 of the display 14 of the image edit device 1 (drawing 92, Step 432).

[0384]The edited image perused when the file name currently displayed in this file name list window W16 is clicked by the user is chosen (drawing 92, Step 433). The data showing the file name of the selected edited image is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 with a Request to Send. If the data and the Request to Send showing the file name of an edited image are received in the main server 30, edited image data (edited image data for printing) with the file name will be searched. The found edited image data is transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30 (drawing 93, Step 444).

[0385]The edited image data transmitted from the main server 30 will be recorded on a hard disk by HD drive 24 of the image edit device 1 (drawing 92, Step 434). The picture viewer software compatible with the inspection document gestalt continued and chosen will start, and the edited image expressed by the edited image data recorded on the

hard disk will be displayed on the display screen of the display 14 (drawing 92, Step 434, and window W17). For example, if a Page Description Language is PostScript, a PostScript viewer will start, and if it is HTML, a web browser will start. With the printer 20 connected to the image edit device 1, the edited image expressed by the edited image data recorded on the hard disk will be printed, if required.

[0386]Next, suppose that the gestalt of the document with the selected user of the image edit device 1 to peruse is a gestalt of documents other than a Page Description Language (being drawing 92 and Step 425 NO). In the case of the gestalt of documents other than a Page Description Language, the table of the file name of the reduction image of the edited picture registered into the selected category is generated in the main server 30 (drawing 93, Step 443). The listed image of a reduction image is generated from the image data showing a reduction image, and the image data showing the listed image is transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30.

[0387]If the image data showing a reduction image list is transmitted to the image edit device 1, the reduction image list window W14 will be displayed on the display 14 of the image edit device 1 (drawing 92, Step 424).

[0388]By clicking the reduction image currently displayed by the user of the image edit device 1 in the window W14, the data showing the file name of the edited image is transmitted to the main server 30 from the image edit device 1 (drawing 92, Step 428).

[0389]If the data showing the file name of an edited image is received in the main server 30, the edited image data expressed by the received data will be searched in the main server 30. If the edited image data showing an edited image with the selected user of the image edit device 1 is found, the edited image data will be transmitted to the image edit device 1 from the main server 30 (drawing 93, Step 442).

[0390]The edited image data transmitted from the main server 30 is received by the image edit device 1. The thing or the HTML form thing of the document format based on the document format only for an edited image into which the received edited image data was edited by this image editing software is judged (drawing 92, Step 429). If based on the document format only for an edited image, an edited image will be displayed from the edited image data which received based on image editing software for exclusive use (drawing 92, Step 430). If required, printing of an edited image will also be performed. If edited image data is a HTML form thing, a HTML browser will be started and an edited image will be displayed by HTML form (drawing 92, Step 431). Thereby, an edited image is displayed on the screen of the display 14 (window W15).

[0391]In the main server 30, the edited image is not registered by the document format of 1, and is registered by two or more kinds of document formats. A possibility that a

user can peruse an edited image becomes high.

[0392]Although the image edit device mentioned above is put on a user's house, it may usually be made to be arranged in a street, a shop front, and a store etc.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1]The outline of the whole image communication system is shown.

[Drawing 2]The electric constitution of the image edit device is shown.

[Drawing 3]The electric constitution of the main server is shown.

[Drawing 4]The electric constitution of the printer server is shown.

[Drawing 5]The folder generated by the main server is shown.

[Drawing 6]An example of the free picture is shown.

[Drawing 7]An example of the free picture is shown.

[Drawing 8]An example of the copyright picture is shown.

[Drawing 9]An example of the personal picture is shown.

[Drawing 10]An example of the edited image is shown.

[Drawing 11]An example of a reduction image file is shown.

[Drawing 12]An example of the graphics file for printing is shown.

[Drawing 13]An example of the graphics file for printing is shown.

[Drawing 14]An example of an edited image file is shown.

[Drawing 15]The example of use of the image communication system is shown.

[Drawing 16]The example of use of the image communication system is shown.

[Drawing 17]The example of use of the image communication system is shown.

[Drawing 18]The example of use of the image communication system is shown.

[Drawing 19]The example of use of the image communication system is shown.

[Drawing 20]Picture reading processing is shown.

[Drawing 21]Picture reading processing is shown.

[Drawing 22]Picture reading processing is shown.

[Drawing 23]Picture reading processing is shown.

[Drawing 24]Picture reading processing is shown.

[Drawing 25]Picture reading processing is shown.

[Drawing 26]The display example of the screen is shown.

[Drawing 27]The display example of the screen is shown.

[Drawing 28]Image editing processing and image output processing are shown.

[Drawing 29]Image editing processing and image output processing are shown.

[Drawing 30]Image editing processing and image output processing are shown.

[Drawing 31]Image editing processing and image output processing are shown.

[Drawing 32]Image editing processing and image output processing are shown.

[Drawing 33]Image editing processing and image output processing are shown.

[Drawing 34]Image editing processing and image output processing are shown.

[Drawing 35]Image editing processing and image output processing are shown.

[Drawing 36]Image editing processing and image output processing are shown.

[Drawing 37]The display example of the screen is shown.

[Drawing 38]The display example of the screen is shown.

[Drawing 39]An example of compilation information is shown.

[Drawing 40]Authenticating processing is shown.

[Drawing 41]Authenticating processing is shown.

[Drawing 42]Reception and image editing processing of order data are shown.

[Drawing 43]Reception and image editing processing of order data are shown.

[Drawing 44]Reception and image editing processing of order data are shown.

[Drawing 45]Reception and image editing processing of order data are shown.

[Drawing 46]The communications processing between servers is shown.

[Drawing 47]The printing job is shown.

[Drawing 48]The printing job is shown.

[Drawing 49]Printing end processing is shown.

[Drawing 50]An example of the display screen of the display of an image edit device is shown.

[Drawing 51]An example of the display screen of the display of an image edit device is shown.

[Drawing 52]An example of the display screen of the display of an image edit device is shown.

[Drawing 53]The outline of the accounting procedure is shown.

[Drawing 54](A) - (C) The accounting management file is shown.

[Drawing 55]The accounting management file is shown.

[Drawing 56](A) And (B) The part picture is shown.

[Drawing 57]The template picture is shown.

[Drawing 58]An example of the picture memorized by the image edit device is shown.

[Drawing 59]An example of an edited image is shown.

[Drawing 60]Part image registration accounting is shown.

[Drawing 61]A part image registration file is shown.

[Drawing 62](A) (B) And (C) The part graphics file is shown.

[Drawing 63]Template picture generation processing is shown.

[Drawing 64]Template picture registration division gold processing is shown.

[Drawing 65]Template picture registration division gold processing is shown.

[Drawing 66]A template picture catalogued file is shown.

[Drawing 67](A) - (C) The template file is shown.

[Drawing 68]Image editing processing is shown.

[Drawing 69]Edited image printing division gold processing is shown.

[Drawing 70]Edited image printing division gold processing is shown.

[Drawing 71]Edited image printing division gold processing is shown.

[Drawing 72]Edited image printing division gold processing is shown.

[Drawing 73]It is a printing fee gold discount table.

[Drawing 74]It is an edit fee discount table.

[Drawing 75]It is a paper price discount table.

[Drawing 76]It is a service kind table.

[Drawing 77]The contents of the database are shown.

[Drawing 78]Processing of price receipt is shown.

[Drawing 79]Processing when cancellation occurs is shown.

[Drawing 80]An authenticating processing procedure is shown.

[Drawing 81]An example in case an image edit device and a printer server are in the same place is shown.

[Drawing 82]A copyright picture use file is shown.

[Drawing 83]A copyright picture usage list file is shown.

[Drawing 84]An example in case an image edit device and a printer server are in the same place is shown.

[Drawing 85]The edited image file for printing is shown.

[Drawing 86]The processing which prints an edited picture in an image edit device is shown.

[Drawing 87]An example of the screen displayed on the display of an image edit device is shown.

[Drawing 88]An example of the screen displayed on the display of an image edit device is shown.

[Drawing 89]It is a flow chart which shows the processing which prints an edited picture in an image edit device.

[Drawing 90]It is a flow chart which shows the processing which prints an edited picture in an image edit device.

[Drawing 91]It is a flow chart which shows the processing which prints an edited

picture in an image edit device.

[Drawing 92]It is a flow chart which shows the processing which prints an edited picture in an image edit device.

[Drawing 93]It is a flow chart which shows the processing which prints an edited picture in an image edit device.

[Description of Notations]

1 Image edit device

2 CPU

9 CD-ROM drive

10 FD driver

14 Display

24 HD drive

26 The digital printer for labs

30 Main server

31 Picture server

32 Printer server

35 Certificate authority

* NOTICES *

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1.This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.

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3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.